

Gorillas to Cape Town

MAKE TRACKS FOR AFRICA

This information pack has been put together so that you can prepare for your safari. It has been developed over many years of experience overlanding. Please read it carefully.

Departure dates for the Gorillas to Cape Town safari

Depart Kigali	Finish Cape Town	Price	Local Payment (US\$)
27 Jul 2025	10 Oct 2025	£3335	US\$850
26 Aug 2025	09 Nov 2025	£3335	US\$850
25 Jan 2026	10 Apr 2026	£3335	US\$850
30 Jun 2026	13 Sep 2026	£3335	US\$850
25 Jul 2026	08 Oct 2026	£3335	US\$850
24 Aug 2026	07 Nov 2026	£3335	US\$850
21 Sep 2026	05 Dec 2026	£3335	US\$850
25 Jan 2027	10 Apr 2027	£3335	US\$850

Countries visited: Rwanda • Uganda • Kenya • Tanzania • Malawi • Zambia • Zimbabwe • Botswana • Namibia • South Africa

Highlights: Genocide Memorial and Museum • Orphanage visit • Dian Fossey's Grave • Golden monkey trek • Mountain gorilla trek • Lake Bunyoni • Bujagali • Ziwa Rhino Sanctuary • Volunteer in a village school • Whitewater Rafting on the White Nile • Nakuru National Park • Visit a children's orphanage • Lake Naivasha • Hells Gate National Park • Crater Lake Sanctuary • Masai Mara for two nights. • Maasai village • Ngorongoro Crater • Serengeti National Park • Zanzibar Island • Spice tour • Snorkeling and scuba diving • Mnemba Atoll • Prison Island and the giant tortoise • Dolphin boat cruise • Red colobus monkey trek • Great Rift Valley • Lake Malawi • Lake Kariba houseboats • South Luangwa National Park • Great Zimbabwe Ruins • Whitewater rafting on the Zambezi • Matopos National Park • Rhino trek • Victoria Falls • Horse riding • Flights over the Falls • Bungee jump • Zambezi gorge swing • Sunset cruise • Canoeing • Chobe National Park • Okavango Delta mokoro safari • Bushman visit • Etosha National Park • Africat Carnivore

Care • Skeleton Coast • Cape Cross Seal Colony • Swakopmund • Dune quad-biking • Sandboarding • Tandem skydiving • Township tour • Open-sea fishing • Go-karting • Namib Naukluft National Park • Sossusvlei dunes • Guided walk on the dunes • Fish River Canyon • Orange River • Stellenbosch • Wine tour • Cape Town.

Safari structure: This safari travels from the “land of a thousand hills” with its Afromontane forests, home to the mountain gorilla, through to the vast savannah plains of the Masai Mara and the Serengeti, then to the East African coast to visit Zanzibar Island, a jewel of palm-fringed white beaches set in the Indian Ocean. Visit Malawi the ‘warm heart of Africa’ and on to big highlights, Victoria Falls and the massive dunes of Namibia. There are game drives in parks such as Nakuru and South Luangwa and the opportunity to do a mokoro safari in the Okavango Delta. We finish in Cape Town where you can relax for a few days before returning home. Alternatively you may like to extend your time away and travel along the Garden Route with us to Johannesburg. Our tours are made up of components and on this group trip you might also meet travellers with less time who will travel with you for shorter sections of your tour. Please feel free to contact us for further details.

Index

Please click on any of these section names to go straight there.

Safari departure dates and details	Page 1
Flights	Page 2
Insurance	Page 2
Visa requirements	Page 3
Pre and post safari information	Page 4
Health and immunisation	Page 6
A detailed guide itinerary	Page 8
Gorilla permits and arrangements for your stay on Zanzibar Island	Page 14
Money and budgeting	Page 16
Packing - what to bring, packing advice incl. electrical equipment	Page 23
Life on your big yellow truck (Including advice on safety and security, trading and donating, general code of conduct, keeping in touch)	Page 31
The migration	Page 36
Wildlife chart	Page 37
Further reading	Page 38

Flights

When arranging your flights we suggest you arrive in Kigali, Rwanda mid-morning on the day your safari begins. There is an international airport in Kigali.

Return flights can be arranged to depart from the day after your safari is scheduled to end. We arrive into Cape Town on day 74 of the tour, so you may like to allow a couple of extra days to explore the city and its surrounds a bit more before booking your onward flight.

At certain times of the year, flight availability can become very limited and if you delay your booking, you might have to pay a higher price. Please organise your flights as soon as you can once you decide to travel.

The usual flight arrangements for this trip are sometimes known as ‘open jaw’ flights. These allow you to fly in to one destination and out of another. If searching online these are often called ‘multi city’ or ‘multi stop’ tickets.

There are several airlines that fly into Kigali and out of South Africa including SAA, Kenya Airways, KLM, Brussels Airlines, Swiss Airlines and Ethiopian Airways. Alternatively add-on flights with Kenya Airways, Rwandair Express and Uganda Airways can also be arranged, flying on from Nairobi and Entebbe to Kigali to combine with multicity flights arriving in Nairobi or Entebbe.

We can help you with a flight quote. Please feel free to call the office if you would like assistance.

A friendly reminder – When purchasing your flights, check whether your flight ticket already includes departure tax (if applicable) for the country you are flying out of at the end of your trip. If it does not, remember to keep the necessary funds aside in USD to make this payment.

Insurance

[Back to Index](#)

Your safety and enjoyment when travelling with Absolute Africa are of the utmost importance to us, which is why it is essential that you have arranged adequate travel insurance to cover your whole trip.

We are happy to introduce you to specialist insurance brokers Campbell Irvine, underwritten by AWP P&C SA. The cover includes a 24-Hour Worldwide Emergency Medical Service who are expert in providing friendly and professional emergency help.

Click on the following link to the page on our website to find out more:
www.absoluteafrica.com/Insurance

Do note that it is a condition of booking that you have contacted your insurers to confirm that the cover you have arranged is appropriate for ALL your requirements, taking into account the remote nature of overland travel, and that any hazardous activities you may intend to undertake are fully covered, including whitewater rafting on grade 5 rapids, scuba diving, trekking Kilimanjaro, volunteer work, tandem sky diving and bungee jumping.

When selecting insurance carefully consider the cancellation policy, as well as cover for any valuables you might take. If you buy insurance in the UK you should check that your policy is valid if you are a non-UK resident and the provision for one-way travel if this is required.

Remember when travelling it is important to take all sensible precautions in regards to your security, safety and health, including taking precautions to avoid illness such as malaria. We advise you to make an appointment with a travel clinic as soon as possible after deciding to travel. Your travel insurance might also be affected by the relevant government's Travel Advice for the countries on your route. Do stay up to date with the latest official government Travel Advice.

Visa requirements for the Gorillas to Cape Town safari

[Back to Index](#)

Your passport needs to be valid for at least 6 months after your trip finishes. Ensure also that you have enough pages in your passport for each country you visit. Up to 2 consecutive blank pages can be required when you enter South Africa at the end of your trip. As a guide then, for the Gorillas to Cape Town Safari you will need to have a minimum of 12 blank pages (sides).

If you have dual nationality you can only use one passport for the entire trip, but bringing both passports is a wise back-up strategy. You can find more information in the different country listings on the FCO's website (www.fco.gov.uk) under 'entry requirements'. Do be aware it can be illegal to travel in Africa on two passports.

Please note for those nationalities that need to pay for a visa to Rwanda, the East Africa Tourist visa will offer the best value for time and money. It is being charged at 100 USD. This can be purchased on arrival in Rwanda, at Kigali airport, and will give entry to Rwanda, Uganda and Kenya.

If you do not need to pay for a visa to Rwanda, you should then apply for the East Africa Tourist visa to Uganda ahead of time and this can be done online. This is 100 USD. This is the easiest option as it means you only need to apply online to one country ahead of time. The alternative is to buy a single entry Ugandan visa for 50 USD and then apply online ahead of time for the Kenyan ETA which is 30 USD and this will save you 20 USD.

Irish citizens do not require a visa for Uganda and so it is most cost effective to buy a single entry visa for Rwanda at the border for 30 USD and then apply online ahead of time for a Kenyan ETA (electronic travel authorisation) for 30 USD.

Visas for Tanzania and Zimbabwe can be organised on arrival at the border for most passport holders. Visas on the ground can only be paid for in US dollars cash.

As of 1st April 2025, a visa is now required for entry to Namibia for most Western European, Canadian, American, Australian, New Zealander and most South American nationals. This is 1600 N\$ (approx 90 USD). We advise to apply for this online ahead of time to save time at the border.

Below is an estimation of current visa requirements and their cost:

Passport	<i>Rwanda</i>	<i>Uganda.</i>	<i>Kenya</i>	<i>Tanzania</i>	<i>Malawi</i>	<i>Zambia</i>	<i>Zimbabwe</i>	<i>Namibia</i>	<i>No of Visas</i>
Australian	-	\$100	-	\$50	-	-	\$30	1600 N\$	4
New Zealand	-	\$100	-	\$50	-	-	\$30	1600 N\$	4
South African	-	\$100	-		-	-	-	-	1
Canadian	-	\$100	-	\$50	-	-	\$75	1600 N\$	4
American	\$100	-	-	\$100	-	-	\$30	1600 N\$	4
British	-	\$100	-	\$50	-	-	\$55	1600 N\$	4
German	\$100	-	-	\$50	-	-	\$30	1600 N\$	4
Dutch	\$100	-	-	\$50	-	-	\$30	1600 N\$	4
Irish	\$30	-	\$30	\$100	-	-	\$55	1600 N\$	5
French	-	\$100	-	\$50	-	-	\$30	1600 N\$	4

Visas are not normally required for most passport holders for Malawi, Zambia, Botswana and South Africa.

The above information covers current visa requirements for British, Australian, New Zealand, Irish, South African, German, French, Dutch, Canadian and American passport holders only. If your passport is not detailed above please do not hesitate to contact the office if you would like further details of your visa requirements.

Be aware that visa requirements can change without prior notice. This information is given as a guide only. We do ask that you also check your personal current visa requirements with the relevant embassies well in advance before you travel. Ultimately you are responsible to ensure you have the appropriate visas for your trip. For more information on visas check out <https://www.absoluteafrica.com/Visa> and www.projectvisa.com

Pre and post safari information

[Back to Index](#)

Joining us in Kigali

We meet on the afternoon of day 1 of the tour in central Kigali. We will confirm the meeting point closer to the time. If you arrive in the day prior to departure we recommend booking accommodation at Yambi Guesthouse or Pili Pili Boutique Hotel.

Departing Kigali

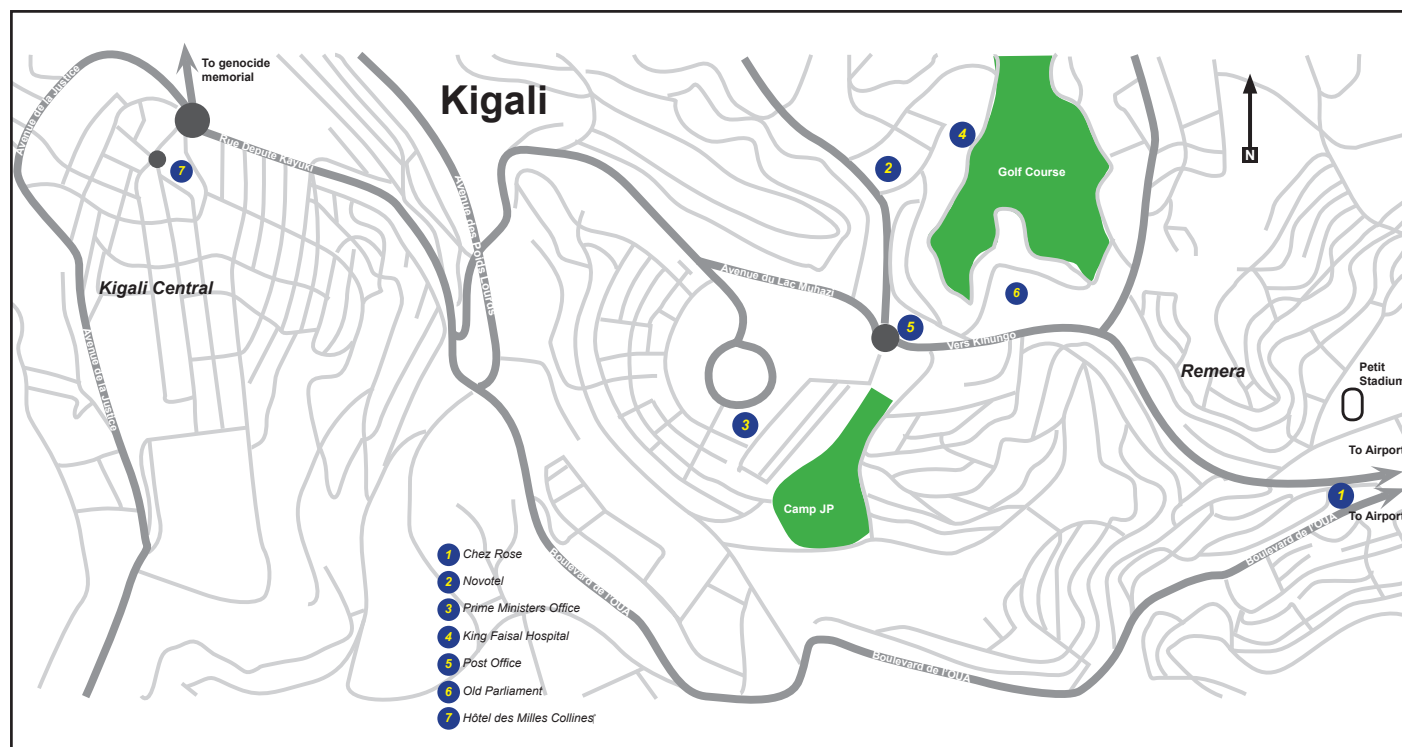
On Day One we usually meet by late afternoon at a campsite in central Kigali. The crew will aim to organise a meeting to go through all the basics you need to know about your safari, including health, hygiene, security and safety procedures. Please ensure you read the relevant sections in this booklet carefully also. The crew will also collect the local payment, organise rosters and tent partners, show you how to put up your tent, and of course answer any questions you may have. There will probably be many aspects of going on an overland camping safari in Africa that will be very new for you, so do listen carefully.

Your crew are there to do all they can to help. Please feel free to discuss any matter with them. Do remember you are on a group trip and it is as valuable to listen to other people's ideas as it is to contribute your own.

Your crew have been trained and do know your route. They will facilitate group discussions and will advise to the best of their abilities.

Important pre-safari details

Upon booking this overland trip a form is sent to you on which you can advise us of your flight details and also update us on this form of any change in your details and confirm your insurance details, if you don't know these when booking.



Flight departure

Check in as early as possible prior to your departure time: your flight ticket will indicate how early you should check in. When checking in you may need to show your Booking Voucher to demonstrate that you will be leaving Rwanda on safari. Please remember to carry this with your personal documents.

Your Booking Voucher is issued upon receipt of final payment. Your booking voucher will also have emergency contact details in the event you need assistance in transit.

Arriving in Kigali International Airport, Rwanda

At the airport you will find signs are in English and there is also an exchange open for international arrivals.

Travelling into Kigali: The airport is 7 miles east of the centre of Kigali. The easiest way to get into town is to use a taxi.

You should change up enough money for what you need until you meet the truck or can next get to a bank. We recommend you change up about 60 USD into Rwandan francs at the airport. Do remember you need to cover any meals you have prior to the trip start, as well as any accommodation and transfers.

NB: For rough budgeting/banking purposes in Rwanda the current mid rate is approximately USD 1 = 1,420 Rwandan francs. (March 2025).

At the end of your safari

The Gorillas to Cape Town safari finishes at Ashanti Lodge at the foot of Table Mountain, Cape Town. Your final three nights' accommodation in a dorm at the Ashanti Lodge is covered in your payment.

The Ashanti holds beds for us ahead of our arrival and the crew will reconfirm with you your exact requirements, including upgrades and/or extended stays, as early as possible after you join the trip. Let your crew know if you want to upgrade; you can then just pay the difference.

Airport transfers can be arranged and these are R250, approx.14 USD.

Current exchange rate is approximately 1 USD = 18 ZAR (March 2025).

The Ashanti also has a travel shop which can help you with all your onward arrangements including airport transfers, tours within South Africa including car hire, and coach seats to Johannesburg as well as flights and excursions throughout South Africa.

Do remember to budget for any excursions you might wish to do after your safari.

Typical excursions among many that might be of interest:

• Topless Bus Cape Town City Tour	R299
• Robben Island	R600
Ferry leaves hourly between 9 and 3. Please speak to your leader about booking ahead of time.	
• Cable Car to Table Mountain (return)	from R390
• Abseil Table Mountain	R940
• Paragliding	R1700
• Aquarium	R250
• Township tour	R770
• Cape Malay Cooking Experience - Tuesdays and Saturdays	R1460
• Cape Point and Peninsular Tour	R1800
• Skydiving	R3450
• Whale watching tour	R1950
• Wine lands tour	R1980
• White Shark Cage Diving - (inc food, transport and drinks)	R3250

Heading further afield

We run an Add-On Safari at the end of this trip, along the Garden Route to Johannesburg, visiting all the main highlights including white shark dives, the Bloukrans bungee, Cango Caves, Addo Elephant Park, the Ostrich Farm, Lesotho and the Drakensberg. Details can be found @ www.absoluteafrica.com/summary.lasso?trip_code=GR16

For those already booked on the Absolute Safari we offer a special price for this add on safari, £1900.00. Limited places available so do contact us for further details.

If you need an internal flight: www.kulula.com or alternatively have a look at www.flymango.com or www.1time.aero

Health and immunisation

[Back to Index](#)

Prior to departure it is essential that you contact a specialist travel medical clinic. Clinics such as the Nomad Travel Stores and Medical Centre in London or a similar professional travel medical company will provide you with the latest recommendations for travel in Africa.

You will need to have the required immunisations and start a course of anti-malarials prior to departure for this trip. Travelling to Africa will expose you to diseases and health hazards that you may not have come across before, such as malaria and waterborne parasites including bilharzia. You must consult a medical professional who specialises in travel medicine before you depart to discuss where you will be travelling in regard to the above, your immunisation schedule and any other requirements. Remember to start your vaccination program in good time, so that it is completed before you go. About six weeks is usually adequate, depending on how up to date you currently are.

Ensure you are well informed about any health concerns en route so you can stay fit and healthy to relax and enjoy your trip. The Lonely Planet publishes a medical travel guide for the region which may be of interest called 'Healthy Travel Africa'.

You may also like to check out the following websites:
www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk

Suggested travel clinics in the United Kingdom

Nomad Travel Stores and Clinics

Tel: 01341 555 061

- 11 S Molton St, Mayfair, London W1K 5QP, UK
- 65 London Wall, London, EC2M 5TU

There are also Nomad clinics in Bristol, Cardiff and Manchester.

Visit www.nomadtravel.co.uk for further information.

If travelling from Australia, Fiji, New Zealand, South Africa or destinations in Asia we recommend you contact Travel Doctor/TMVC. Their websites are at:

www.traveldoctor.com.au/

www.traveldoctor.co.nz

www.traveldoctor.co.za/

There are travel clinics in many of the big centres in Australia, New Zealand and South Africa, as well as in Thailand, Singapore, Hanoi, Bali and Nadi.

Suggested immunisation requirements (This is a guide only)

The immunisations usually suggested for the countries visited on this safari are:

- Yellow fever – Vaccination must not be left any later than 10 days prior to departure and you must be able to show proof i.e. carry your certificate of vaccination with you.
- Typhoid
- Polio
- Tetanus
- Hepatitis A (three months)
- Meningitis
- Diphtheria
- Tuberculosis
- Other Suggested Immunisations – Hepatitis B, rabies.

It is essential to take a course of anti-malarials. It is best to discuss the type of anti-malarial medication you should take with a travel clinic such as Nomad. They will have the latest information on which medication is most effective in the countries through which you will be travelling. They can also advise on possible side effects and which drug might best suit you. Do follow all medical advice given with your prescribed medication. Do be aware that some anti-malarials can have negative side effects and also that your choice of drug needs to be appropriate to protect against strains of malaria specific to the regions in Africa through which you are travelling.

The choices usually suggested are:

- Larium, taken x1 a week
- Doxycycline, taken x1 a day
- Malarone, taken x1 a day

Do think about how to set up a reminder system for yourself so you remember to take your medication. If you are taking a daily medication as an anti-malarial, do remember also to carry it with you on the plane in your hand luggage.

As well as your anti-malarials, you will need to bring a number of other medical items in a simple Personal Medical Kit. Medical kits can usually be bought at travel clinics. Alternatively lists as to the types of items you are advised to carry can be found in the 'What do I need to bring on safari?' section.

General information on avoiding malaria

The best way to avoid malaria is to guard against being bitten by mosquitoes and stick strictly to your chosen medication regime. To protect yourself from being bitten:

- Cover exposed skin thoroughly in insect repellent, such as DEET, from dusk to dawn, and reapply it

regularly. If applying with sunblock apply it above the sunblock.

- Ensure you carry enough DEET with you to Africa. It is not easy to get hold of mosquito repellent once on the road.
- Wear long-sleeved and long-legged lightweight clothing in light colours as well as socks.
- Always sleep under a mosquito net or in a secure tent with all zips zipped up.
- Wear impregnated wrist and ankle bands.
- You may wish to treat clothing with permethrin

Do be aware also your insurance cover may well assume you are on a recognised course of anti-malarials. If you don't take a recognised anti-malarial, it may affect your cover.

Other medical issues

You are reminded that the incidence of HIV AIDS is very high in the countries through which we travel. Sexual contact and dirty needles are the main ways that the disease is spread. Do take all necessary precautions. Use condoms. If you have to have any kind of injection, do ensure that the needle is unwrapped in front of you.

You are advised also that the waterborne bilharzia parasite is present in many bodies of fresh water in Africa including sections of Lake Malawi. Bilharzia can be serious. Once diagnosed it is treatable but of course it is best to avoid getting infected. It is recommended also to have a medical check up including a blood test particularly to check for bilharzia upon your return from your safari as a precaution.

Please ensure you contact a travel health clinic prior to departure for the most recent professional medical advice. The above is given as a broad guide only.

Remember it is a condition of booking that you let us know upon booking or at the earliest opportunity if you have any medical conditions, and particularly if you are on regular medication.

It is wise to know your blood group particularly when travelling in the Third World. As this is the case, as a precaution on day 1 your crew will ask for your blood type can you please have this information available for them.

The Gorillas to Cape Town Safari Itinerary

[Back to Index](#)

Days 1 - 2: Kigali to Musanze

We meet up in Kigali in the afternoon of day one where we will camp the night. Your crew will also arrange a Pre-departure Meeting.

Kigali, with its lush hillsides, flowering trees, winding boulevards and bustling streets, is arguably one of the most attractive capital cities in Africa. There is time to visit some of the museums and reflect upon the genocide of 1994.

In a span of 100 days, an estimated one million Tutsis and moderate Hutus were systematically butchered by the Interahamwe army. The Kigali Genocide Memorial honours the estimated 250,000 people buried here in mass graves and also has an excellent exhibition that tries to explain how the 1994 genocide unfolded.

We can perhaps visit some other memorial sites before we get on the road on day 2, your first experience of travelling on the overland truck, making our way through mountainous terrain dotted with tea plantations. It is clear why Rwanda is known as the "Land of a Thousand Hills." This evening we spend the night in Musanze, a small town near the Uganda border.

Distance, Day 2: 115 kms

Est. Drive Time, Day 2: 3 hours

Meals: X1 Breakfast, X2 Dinners (contribution to a restaurant meal in Kigali)

Optional excursions: Visit to the Genocide museum and other memorial sites

Days 3 - 4: Musanze to Kisoro, Uganda

Here at our campsite, you can try your hand at banana beer making and basket weaving. There is also the

chance in the afternoon to do a cycling or walking tour as well as time to visit Musanze town and the Dian Fossey museum.

There is the option to head off on the steep trek to visit Dian Fossey's grave, the American primatologist and conservationist who undertook an intensive study of the species and spent her life working for their survival. Her murder remains shrouded in mystery.

We move on to Kisoro, Uganda, late on day 4 to stay at a simple local hotel where we spend the next two nights, our base while we trek the endangered mountain gorilla.

Distance, Day 4: 51 kms

Est. Drive Time, Day 4: 3 hours (depending on the border)

Meals: X2 Breakfasts, X2 Dinners

Optional excursions: Banana beer making, basket weaving, hike or cycling tour, visit to Dian Fossey's grave. Coffee tour or a Batwa (Pygmy) village visit or Lake Mutande.

Notes: If you wished to trek the gorillas in Rwanda please let us know at the earliest prior to booking. For those wishing to visit Dian Fossey's grave please let us know with good notice before the tour.

Day 5 - Kisoro

At altitudes of up to 3,500 feet, gorilla trekking through dense vegetation on the volcanic slopes of the Virungas is one of the trip's high points. The gorillas are magic to visit. Herbivores, who munch the day away, when they are not playing or sleeping, they live in family groups under the charge of an older dominant male. Known as the silverback, this adult male can weigh up to 350 lbs. Despite their size, the gorillas are shy, gentle and sensitive creatures, in great danger of extinction. There are several other excursions on offer here as well apart from the trek. For another view of the forest head out to trek a troupe of golden monkeys in the lower reaches of the forest. The golden monkey is a sub species of the blue monkey and is named for its vibrant colouring. A Pygmy dance troupe may be invited to entertain with some traditional drumming.

Distance: 0 kms

Est. Drive Time: 0 hours

Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Dinner

Optional excursions: Mountain gorilla trek Bwindi Impenetrable Forest (Uganda). Golden monkeys trek or orphanage visit. Coffee tour. Lake Mutande.

Day 6: Kisoro to Kalinzu

We have an early start to drive through to stay by the hillside tropical forest of Kalinzu on the edge of the Rift Valley and Queen Elizabeth National Park. Here we have the option to trek in lush forest to search for habituated chimpanzees. The park also has black and white colobus monkey and other monkey species.

Distance: 226 kms

Est. Drive Time: 9 hours including lunch stop

Meals: X1 Breakfasts, X1 Dinner

Optional excursion: Chimpanzee trek in Kalinzu Forest.

Days 7 - 8: Kalinzu Forest to Lake Mburo National Park

Heading on our journey, we camp beside Lake Mburo National Park, a picturesque small gem of a park, with forest fringed lakes hemmed in by rolling green hills. A morning game drive in the park as well as a boat cruise are included hoping for sightings of giraffe, impala, Burchell's zebra, topi, eland, waterbuck and reedbuck. Our safari takes us across savanna and wetland habitats, the park also boasting much birdlife. Crocodile and hippo inhabit the lakes. Evening game drives are also of offer

Distance, Day 7: 140 kms

Est. Drive Time, Day 7: 4 hours

Meals: X2 Breakfasts, X2 Dinners

Included wildlife activities: Morning game drive and boat trip, Lake Mburo National Park
Vehicle for game drives: 4x4 open safari vehicle

Optional excursion: Evening game drive

Days 9 - 10: Lake Mburo National Park to Ziwa Rhino Sanctuary

We continue through the lush Ugandan countryside heading towards the capital, Kampala. On the way we stop at a local drum and craft market, and at the Equator there is time for a photo shoot. Reaching the capital we get to banks, e-mail and can do some shopping.

The next day we travel to the Ziwa Rhino sanctuary, the only place in Uganda to see rhinos.

Here there is the option in the afternoon to go for a rhino trek on foot or do a boat trip in the park.

Distance over two days: 412 kms

Est. Drive Time, day 9: 6.5 hours incl.stops for lunch and photos at The Equator

Est. Drive Time, day 10: 6 hours

Meals: X2 Breakfasts, X2 Dinners

Included wildlife activity: Entry to Ziwa Rhino Sanctuary, Rhino trek

Optional excursions: Boat ride, bird or nature walk

Days 11 - 13: Ziwa to Jinja

We arrive at Jinja! The adventure capital of East Africa is at the source of the White Nile, and we camp on the banks of the river. Here we have a free day and can take advantage of the wide range of activities on offer: white water rafting, quad biking, horse riding, bungee jumping, helping out in a local school plus a variety of boat and kayak trips on the Nile.

Distance, Day 11: 209 kms

Est. Drive Time, Day 11: +/- 3 hours incl lunch stop

Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Dinner

Optional excursions: Whitewater rafting, bungee jump, kayaking, boat trips and cruises, incl. fishing trips, sups, voluntary work in a local school, quad biking, horse riding, mountain biking.

Day 14: Jinja to Eldoret, Kenya

We say goodbye to Uganda as we enter our third country, Kenya, and get ready for the wonderful wildlife activities on offer in this country. In Eldoret, look out for runners along the road as we drive through, as this is the training ground of many of Kenya's famous athletes.

Distance: 268 kms

Est. Drive Time: +/- 7.5 hours (depending on the border) incl. stops for lunch and shopping

Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Dinner

Days 15 - 16: Eldoret to Nakuru

From Eldoret we drive on to Nakuru, in the beautiful Kenyan Rift Valley, where we are based for two nights. At Lake Nakuru National Park we head out for a full day of game drives in small vehicles with a local guide.

Lake Nakuru, in the middle of the Park, is home to greater and lesser flamingo, which colour the lake pink, a stunning view from the look out point on the dramatic cliffs on one side of the lake. Nakuru is also home to lion, leopard, giraffe, hippo, rhino, warthog, hyena and so much more so keep your eyes peeled and cameras at the ready.

Distance: 169 kms

Est. Drive Time: 5 hours incl. stops for lunch and shopping

Meals: X2 Breakfasts, X2 Dinner

Included wildlife activity: Full day of game drives in Nakuru National Park.

Vehicle for game drives: 4x4 minivan with pop up roof

Days 17 - 18: Nakuru to Naivasha

Our next camp in Kenya is on the shores of Lake Naivasha. We have a day to relax, go on a cruise to spot the hippo that live in and around Lake Naivasha and visit Elsamere for high tea. Hiring a bike to explore Hell's Gate National Park is also popular.

We are in Maasai lands now and the traditional herdsmen can be seen throughout the region. Hell's Gate has a Maasai Centre based within the park, and as well dramatic gorges and ravines, remnants of past volcanic activity, that are well worth a look. Alternatively take a walk around the Green Crater Lake Sanctuary - both are great ways to stretch your legs!

Distance, Day 17: 70 kms

Est. Drive Time, Day 13: 3 hours incl. stop for shopping

Meals: X2

Breakfasts, X2 Dinners

Included wildlife activity: Hippo cruise Lake Naivasha

Optional excursions: Elsamere for high tea, cycling in Hells Gate National Park, guided walk to Green Crater Lake.

Day 19: Naivasha to the Loita Hills

Today we are on the road heading for the Masai Mara reserve. We stop overnight at Loita Hills for a stay with the Masai.

This afternoon we will visit a women's village and local hot springs, see traditional dancing and go for a walk with the warriors to learn about their time in the bush and life style.

This evening we spend time with some of the warriors around the fire to find out more about their culture.

Distance: 154 kms

Est. Drive Time: 5 hours incl. stop for shopping

Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Dinner

Days 20 - 21: Loita Hills to Masai Mara

Up early we have time for some "warrior training" this morning before we say goodbye to our Maasai hosts.

Then we head on to our last game park for the tour, the Masai Mara, where we have two days of game drives. The Mara is one of the natural wonders of the world and is perhaps best known for being part of the setting for the famous wildebeest migration, a mass movement of over 2 million wildebeest, zebra and Thomson's gazelle. The migration moves between the plains of the Serengeti in Tanzania and the Masai Mara in Kenya.

Regardless of the season there is always plenty to see in this world famous park with resident elephant, rhino, hippo, buffalo, eland, giraffe, warthog and crocodile, as well as much birdlife. On the months when the migration arrives any time from late June, the vast herds of wildebeest, zebra and Thomson's gazelle can be regularly found on the grassy plains as well.

Distance, Day 20: 60 kms

Est. Drive Time, Day 20: 2 hours

Meals: X2 Breakfasts, X2 Dinners

Included wildlife activity: X1 morning and X2 afternoon game drives

Vehicle for game drives: 4x4 Land cruiser with pop up roof

Optional excursion: Balloon safari

Days 22 - 23: The Masai Mara to Nairobi

The day starts with a final drive through the Masai Mara. Leaving the park, we travel to Nairobi, the capital of Kenya, stopping off at the Rift Valley lookout on the way.

Here in Nairobi we visit the giraffe centre and elephant orphanage in the morning. That evening we have a group dinner to say farewell to those finishing their journey with us here.

Distance, Day 22: 300 kms

Est. Drive Time, Day 22: Short morning game drive, then 6.5 hours to Nairobi incl. lunch stop and photo stops

Meals: X2 Breakfasts, X2 Dinners (incl. contribution to night out)

Included wildlife activity: Morning game drive, Masai Mara

Vehicle for game drive: 4x4 land cruiser with pop up roof

Optional excursion: Meal out at a restaurant

Day 24: Nairobi, Kenya to Arusha, Tanzania

Leaving Nairobi, the drive south to Tanzania takes you through sweeping and often arid plains dotted with whistling thorn. We cross into Tanzania at Namanga. Further on Mount Meru looms in the distance and on a lucky day snow-clad Kilimanjaro might come into view. At 5,895 metres it is Africa's highest mountain.

Arusha is the gateway to the world famous Serengeti National Park and other northern circuit game parks including Ngorongoro Crater. Arriving in town we set up camp and have a safari briefing for those who choose this activity which is for three days / two nights.

Distance: 278 kms

Est. Drive Time: 6 - 7 hours (depending on the border)

Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Dinner

Days 25 - 27: Arusha camp during the optional safari into the Serengeti and Ngorongoro Crater

Three days are allocated to allow time for a safari into Tanzania's world famous game parks –The Serengeti and Ngorongoro Crater – which most in the group usually choose to do.

Day 25: We depart early with a local guide on safari in 4x4 vehicles with a pop up roof. We travel to the Ngorongoro Gate, then transit on to Serengeti.

Arriving in the Serengeti we see the famous kopjes, small hills of rocks from where lions dozing in the sun nonchalantly oversee the surrounds, keeping an eye out for their next meal. Multi-coloured agama lizards can also be seen basking in the sun and golden jackal tussle over a kill in the grasses.

The seemingly endless grasslands of the Serengeti are also the stage for the famous wildebeest migration. On the annual migration 1.5 million wildebeest and other game, such as zebra, Thomson's gazelle, impala and topi move on mass between Kenya's Masai Mara, then into Ngorongoro Conservation Area and the Serengeti. This mass movement is driven by the rains, and the herds' endless search for water and good grazing.

We spend the night camped within the Serengeti with the sounds of the African bush around us. It is quite an experience to be in a tent with just the canvas between you and any wildlife that is out there.

Day 26: Game viewing is often at its best early in the day, so we rise early again to explore more of the Serengeti.

We leave the famous Serengeti plains by mid afternoon to enter more mountainous terrain.

Our drive is also taking us through Maasai lands as well, and the traditional herdsmen can be seen throughout the region. En route we stop to visit a Maasai boma.

Tonight we camp near the rim of the Ngorongoro Crater. We are at altitude here, so wrap up warm tonight.

Day 27: This morning we are up before sunrise to visit Ngorongoro Crater. The Ngorongoro Crater is a perfectly intact volcanic caldera. It is known as the 'Noah's ark' of game reserves. During our game drives here we might view the 'big 5', lion, leopard, elephant, rhino and buffalo, as well as plains game peacefully grazing including zebra, gazelle, impala and wildebeest. Hippopotamus can usually be found lolling in the pools and Lake Magadi can be rimmed with the pink of greater and lesser flamingo.

Travelling back to Arusha there is usually time to wander and buy Maasai souvenirs in one of the extensive markets en route.

If you don't head out on this set of safari to Serengeti and Ngorongoro you can spend time in the extensive Maasai Cultural Centre and Museum, and if you are up for it visit the Snake Park which has a large

collection of reptiles as well as a Maasai display museum. A short camel safari can be arranged here too to visit a Maasai village

Arusha also has busy markets, a shopping mall, coffee shops and internet. The campsite where we are based has a comfortable entertainment area too.

We have a barbecue dinner to celebrate so much wonderful game viewing in East Africa.

Distance, Day 25, and Day 27: 175 kms to and from the Conservation Area gate if doing the optional safari
Est. Drive Time: 3 to 4 hours if doing the optional safari

Meals, Day 25: X1 Breakfast

Meals, Day 26: None

Meals, Day 27: X1 Dinner

Optional excursions for Days 25 to 27: Three day/two night safari with game drives in both the Serengeti and Ngorongoro Crater in open top 4x4 vehicles (incl. x2 dinners, x3 lunches, x2 breakfasts), Balloon safari, Maasai boma visit, Olduvai Gorge Museum (Please note this visit is dependent on road conditions and time constraints. We also require advance notice prior to the tour departure).

Days 28 – 29: Arusha to Marangu

We spend the morning in Arusha to shop and explore the town. After lunch we travel to Marangu at the foot of Kilimanjaro, Africa's highest mountain and the highest free-standing mountain in the world.

Here we spend two nights and have the opportunity to explore, including the option to take a day hike to Mandara Hut, 2,700 kms from the base of the mountain. This is a beautiful walk through tropical forest and on clear days there are special views of both the Kibo and Mawenzi peaks of the mountain.

Alternatively there is the chance to do a day tour of the Marangu area to visit the village to learn more of local life, to visit a coffee plantation and a nearby waterfall.

Distance, Day 28: 120 kms

Est. Drive Time, Day 5: +/- 3 hours

Meals: X2 Breakfasts, X2 Dinners

Optional excursions: Kilimanjaro day hike, Marangu day tour

Day 30: Marangu to Bagamoyo or Dar es Salaam

We continue our journey south, travelling through lush surroundings and the stunning Usambara mountain range, before sleeping over at a coastal campsite either in Bagamoyo or in Dar es Salaam 70 kms further south. Bagamoyo itself was one of the first landing points for the Arabian slavers.

We make final preparations for the optional excursion on Zanzibar Island. The core arrangements are made well ahead of time so we are assured our groups are comfortable in the popular beach cottages to the north of the island at Kendwa and for a night in a local lodge in the traditional capital. The time is yours to relax and do as you please. The tour leader travels over to the island with the group as well to ensure that all runs smoothly.

Distance: 485 kms (545 kms if to Dar)

Est. Drive Time: 9 - 10 hours incl. lunch stop (11 - 12 hours if to Dar es Salaam)

Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Dinner

Days 31 – 34: Optional stay on Zanzibar Island

We make final preparations this morning for the final optional excursion for five days/four nights on the exotic island of Zanzibar where you can relax and enjoy all there is to offer on the "spice island", with time to overnight in the traditional capital, Stone Town, as well as for time on the beach.

Arriving into the ancient port on the lunchtime ferry we head to our beach accommodation on the north west of the island where long white sand beach await us. We enjoy different activities here as well as relax on the beach. We stay in beach accommodation for the next three nights. Scuba diving on the local reefs as well as in the crystal clear coral waters off Mnemba Atoll can be organized from the dive centres at Kendwa.

After our three nights at Kwenda beach, we travel to ancient Stone Town and check into our guesthouse. This gives time to explore the old town with its narrow alleys, traditional Arab architecture and the local evening food markets. You can enjoy sun downers at Africa House whilst watching the traditional dhows sail in the harbour against the colours of sunset. A Spice Tour on the island allows you to test different spices and fruits as well as find out a little of the island's history.

Many of us on Zanzibar take the opportunity to visit Prison Island with its giant tortoise and to snorkel. Alternatively an hour away from Stone Town you can take a walk in the Jozani Forest, home of the red colobus monkeys or head further a field.

Distance: 60 kms Bagamoyo to Dar es Salaam
Est. Drive Time: Up to 2 hours Bagamoyo to Dar es Salaam
Meals, Day 31: X1 Breakfast

Optional excursions whilst on Zanzibar: City tour, Snorkeling, Scuba diving, Mnemba Island, Turtle Sanctuary visit, Prison Island with a visit to the Aldabra tortoise, Jozani Forest to view the red colobus monkeys

Day 35: Zanzibar Island to Morogoro

Leaving the island we head west to Morogoro where we stay the night before continuing our journey.

Distance: 194 kms
Est. Drive Time: 6 hours
Meals: X1 Dinner

Day 36: Morogoro to Iringa

We continue to travel west travelling through Mikumi National Park, Tanzania, where roadside sightings of elephant, giraffe and antelope are common. We continue through Baobab Valley surrounded by the iconic 'upside down trees' and past the Ruaha River to Iringa for our last night in Tanzania.

Distance: 310 kms
Est. Drive Time: 9 hours incl. lunch stop
Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Dinner

Days 37 - 39: Iringa to Kande, Malawi

We enter Malawi and travel south down the third largest lake in Africa, Lake Malawi, created in the chasm provided by the Rift Valley. Known as "the heart of Africa" you will be struck by the warm welcome we receive, despite Malawi being one of the poorest countries en route. We are invited into local villages and schools and this is the perfect opportunity to immerse your self into traditional village life.

The popular beaches provide great locations for the camps where we stay set beside local fishing villages. The lake is home to the brightly coloured and prolific mbuna cichlid fish and scuba diving or snorkelling here has been described as 'rather like a dive into a fish tank'.

Try bartering with local craftsmen selling beautiful carvings including the traditional Malawi chairs, and enjoy sharing in a village meal during our stay. The Malawi markets are also the markets to raid for the latest in fashion attire if the group decides on an Absolute Bad Taste Party.

Distance, Day 37: 498 kms
Distance, Day 38: 235 kms
Est. Drive Time, Day 37: 11 hours incl. lunch and fuel stop and depending on the border
Est. Drive Time, Day 38: +/- 5 hours incl. stop for shopping
Meals: X3 Breakfasts, X3 Dinners

Optional excursions: Water sports, including snorkelling and scuba diving, village walk

Days 40 – 42: Kande Beach to South Luangwa National Park, Zambia

We travel to Zambia today, staying at Mama Rulas campsite near Chipata for a night, heading for one of the country's treasures – South Luangwa National Park. Slightly off the beaten track, Luangwa is a stunning national park with high populations of game, including 60 different animal species and 400 different bird species.

On our full day in the park, we have time to relax by the pool and enjoy the wonderful African bush surrounds, with the chance for a game drive or walk in the morning and also in the evening. The evening drive gives you the chance to see some of Africa's nocturnal and more elusive animals such as the leopard and genet.

Distance, Day 40: 432 - 510 kms

Est. Drive Time, Day 40: +/- 12 hours (depending on the border) and incl. stops for shopping and lunch

Distance, Day 41: 126 kms

Est. Drive Time, Day 41: +/- 5 hours

Meals: X3 Breakfasts, X3 Dinners

Included wildlife activity: X1 game drive in South Luangwa National Park

Vehicle for game drive: Open 4x4 safari vehicle

Optional excursion: Extra game drive or walk, South Luangwa National Park

Days 43 - 44: South Luangwa to Lusaka

We now make our way towards the capital. Upon reaching Lusaka on day 44, we have a chance to access the internet, the bank and also stock up on supplies in a large supermarket.

Distance over two days: 560 kms

Est. Drive Time, Day 43: +/- 6 hours incl. stop for lunch and shopping

Est. Drive Time, Day 44: +/- 6 hours

Meals: X2 Breakfasts, X2 Dinners

Days 45 – 46: Lusaka to Lake Kariba, Zimbabwe

Allocated for the optional stay on the Lake Kariba houseboats

From here we travel to Lake Kariba where we hire a houseboat for a couple of nights break from truck life. The man-made lake took 9 years to build, the dam wall being completed in 1959 when the plains began to flood; animals became stranded on submerging islands and Matusadona National Park launched a massive rescue exercise known as Operation Noah. Whilst cruising on the houseboat we can view elephant, buffalo, kudu, waterbuck and, if lucky, lion as they come down to drink by the water's edge. Sunsets over the lake create a rich backdrop of colour for the stark silhouettes of the fossilised leadwood trees remaining in the lake.

The boats have bedrooms, a jacuzzi and the houseboat crew cook our meals, so this is a fun change from camping and life on the road.

Distance, Day 45: 208 kms

Est. Drive Time, Day 45: 4 - 5 hours (depending on the border) and incl. photo stop Lake Kariba dam wall

Meals: X2 Breakfasts, X2 Dinners

Optional excursion: Houseboat cruise on Lake Kariba

Days 47 - 48: Lake Kariba to Great Zimbabwe Ruins

We drive via Chinoyi to the Great Zimbabwe Ruins - the remains of the ancient capital of the Shona people which was constructed between the 11th – 15th century. There are three main areas of ruins known as Dzimba dzamabwe ("stone houses") from which modern-day Zimbabwe gained its name. These were formed using the dry stone technique, completely without mortar. The term "Great" distinguishes these rock constructs as different to smaller formations in the region and Great Zimbabwe are known to be the largest collection and most impressive ruins south of the Sahara.

Distance, Day 47: 249 kms

Est. Drive Time, Day 47: +/- 6 hours incl. shopping stop

Distance, Day 48: 440 kms

Est. Drive Time, Day 48: 9 hours incl. shopping and lunch stops

Meals: X2 Breakfasts, X2 Dinners

Day 49: Great Zimbabwe Ruins to Bulawayo

This morning we have a guided tour of the ruins before continuing our way to the city of Bulawayo.

Distance: 307 kms

Est. Drive Time: 3 - 4 hours

Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Dinner

Included Activity: Visit to Great Zimbabwe with guided tour

Day 50: Bulawayo

From here we head out for game drives and a rhino trek in Matopos National Park. The Matopos Hills have the largest concentration of raptors (birds of prey) in the world and black eagles can be seen soaring high over the dramatic ancient landscape of granite boulder stacks. The park is also home to both the endangered black and white Rhinoceros, now closely guarded in an intensive conservation program, and the magnificent sable antelope. We track rhino on foot with a professional guide, as well as look for other game. We also find out the different uses and medicinal value of the plant life in the park.

Distance: 0 kms

Est. Drive Time: 0 hours

Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Dinner

Included wildlife activities: Game drive and rhino trek in Matopos National Park.

Vehicle for game drive: Open 4x4 safari vehicle

Optional excursions: Extra game drives in Matopos National Park, Afternoon visit to rock paintings and Cecil Rhodes' grave or a Ndebele Village.

Day 51: Bulawayo to Victoria Falls

Today we travel through to the mighty Victoria Falls. The roaring torrents of water and the mists from the falls, which rise meters into the air, gave rise to the local name 'Mosi-Oa-Tunya', 'the smoke that thunders'.

Distance: 438 kms

Est. Drive Time: +/- 7 hours incl. stop for lunch

Meals: X1 Breakfast

Days 52 – 53: Victoria Falls

At the Falls there is a large number of different adrenaline activities on offer, such as the world famous whitewater rafting on the Zambezi, the bungee jump and the gorge swing. You can take a flight over the Falls in a helicopter or microlight on a 'Flight of the Angels'. Time can be spent in the national park overlooking the Falls. We usually meet up at night for meals in local cheap eating places.

One of our nights at The Falls is often spent together on an evening sunset cruise drifting down the Zambezi as the sun sets. Wildlife such as hippo and crocodiles can be seen in and by the water, and monkeys play in the trees by the river.

Distance: 0 kms

Est. Drive Time: 0 hours

Meals: None

Optional excursions: Whitewater rafting, riverboard, bungee jump, gorge swing, flying fox and zip line, 'Flight of Angels', canoe trip, horse riding, a sundowner cruise

Days 54 - 55: Victoria Falls to Kasane, Botswana

Today we enter Botswana and visit Chobe National Park, where we can take a game drive and a game cruise. Chobe is famous for its elephant population – it is known as the world's elephant capital! There are tens of thousands of them here in this park, however that is far from all there is to see. It has strong lion prides, and game drives regularly provide viewing of giraffe, lechwe, kudu, impala herds, buffalo and much more.

Distance: 87 kms
Est. Drive Time: 3 hours (depending on the border)
Meals: X2 Breakfasts, X2 Dinners

Included wildlife activity: Chobe National Park - game cruise

Optional excursion: Chobe National Park – game drives

Day 56: Kasane to Maun

We leave Chobe and travel past the Makgadikgadi Pans on our way to Maun, set on the edge of the Kalahari Desert.

Distance: 666 kms
Est. Drive Time: 9 hours incl. stop for lunch
Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Dinner

Days 57 - 59: Maun - Optional Mokoro safari in the Okavango Delta

From Maun we organise our mokoro safari into the Okavango Delta.

The Delta is an ecosystem of lush wetlands, placid lagoons and water-lily lled channels created by the arrival of waters that fell as rain on the mountains of Angola months prior. Here on a makoro safari we gain a sense of the remoteness and beauty of the African bush. We meander precariously and silently through the maze of waterways in the traditional canoes and camp for two nights in the wilderness. This can be a wonderful opportunity to get up close to Africa's wild animals. During our stay we take guided game walks with professional guides. We might spot buffalo, hippo, crocodile, antelope, warthog, baboon, wildebeest, elephant and lion. Bird life is prolific including king shers, ducks, marabou storks, sacred and glossy ibis, herons and egrets. The incessant chatter of birds can make an afternoon nap quite problematic during our bush camp!

Distance: 0 kms
Est. Drive Time: 0 hours
Meals: X3 Breakfasts, X3 Dinners

Optional excursions: Okavango Delta mokoro safari, flights over the Delta

Days 60 - 62: Maun to Etosha National Park, Namibia

Leaving Maun we head towards Grootfontein, Namibia where we arrive on day 60 for shopping in town and to make a cultural visit to the local Bushmen. We stop over at a nearby camp before heading the following day for Namibia's most well known National Park, Etosha.

On the way to Etosha, we stop to see the Hoba meteorite. Discovered in the 1920's, Hoba is estimated to be at least 190 million years old and is the world's largest meteorite.

Distance over 3 days: 932 kms
Est. Drive Time, Day 60: +/- 10 hours (depending on the border)
Est. Drive Time, Day 61: 8.5 hours
Est. Drive Time, Day 62: 6 hours to Etosha entrance, then afternoon game drives in Etosha
Meals: X3 Breakfasts, X3 Dinners

Optional excursions: Walk with warrior bushmen, visit women's village, Hoba meteorite

Day 63: Etosha National Park

Etosha National Park centres around the vast Etosha Pan, an extensive at depression of 5,000 square metres of shimmering mirages and in the language of the local Owambo tribe, Etosha means 'place of dry water'. The park is home to the 'big five' - lion, leopard, buffalo, elephant and rhino. Optional evening game drives and the floodlit water holes at Okaukuejo and Halali are highlights of Etosha.

Distance: 0 kms
Est. Drive Time: Game drives through the day
Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Dinner

Included wildlife activity: Full day of game drives in Etosha National Park
Vehicle for game drives: Overland truck

Optional excursion: Evening game drive.

Day 64: Etosha National Park to Africat, Otjiwarongo

Leaving Etosha we travel via Outjo to the Africat Foundation which is a non-profit organization focusing on the conservation of Namibia's predators, particularly cheetah, in their natural habitat. Here we can actively take part in this programme and learn more about these beautiful and amazing animals.

Distance: 182 kms

Est. Drive Time: 7 hours including short game drive and stops for shopping and lunch

Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Dinner

Included wildlife activities: Short game drive in Etosha, Africat carnivore care

Vehicle for game drive: Overland truck

Days 65 - 66: Otjiwarongo to Swakopmund

We travel through some of the most scenic regions of the tour the lower section of the Skeleton Coast that is often shrouded in mist. We spend a night at the amazing Spitzkoppe rock formations, camping under the stars.

We come to Cape Cross Seal Reserve, one of 16 breeding colonies for Cape Fur seals before we arrive into the seaside resort town of Swakopmund, nestled between the desert and the sea

Distance over two days: 452 kms

Est. Drive Time, Day 65: 5 hours

Est. Drive Time, Day 66: +/- 4.5 hours

Meals: X2 Breakfasts, X1 Dinner

Included wildlife activity: Cape Cross Seal colony visit

Optional excursions: Morning game drive, Africat. Guided walk incl. viewing of rock paintings.

Days 67 – 68: Swakopmund

Swakopmund is the place for action and adventure sports - quad-biking, sandboarding, go-karting, horse riding, shing and tandem sky diving. There are sights over the Namib Desert and the Skeleton Coast. A township tour provides insight into day to day local life.

Distance: 0 kms

Est. Drive Time: 0 hours

Meals: None

Optional excursions: Quad-biking, sandboarding, skydiving, go-karting, desert tours, open-sea fishing, seal and dolphin cruise, sea kayaking, township tours, horse riding.

Day 69: Swakopmund to Sesriem

We drive through to Sossusvlei in the Namib Naukluft National Park. We are now in the vast arid regions of southern Namibia. Here we can visit the Sesriem Gorge in the afternoon.

Distance: 344 kms

Est. Drive Time: 8.5 hours, incl. lunch stop

Meals: X1 Dinner

Days 70 - 71: Sesreim to Ai Ais

In the morning we get up before sunrise to climb the famous Dune 45 for sunrise views. After this there is the option to go to Sossusvlei by 4x4 to visit the Dead vlei pan and see more of this harsh but beautiful landscape.

Fish River Canyon is our next highlight. It is the second largest canyon in the world, created by the rushing waters of the Fish River. We then head to our camp at Ai Ais and enjoy a soak in the hot springs in the lower reaches of the Canyon.

Distance over two days: 613 kms
Est. Drive Time, day 70: +/- 5 hours
Est. Drive Time, day 71: +/- 9 hours incl. stop at the Canyon
Meals: X2 Breakfasts, X2 Dinners

Included activities: Visit to Dune 45, visit to Fish River Canyon.

Optional excursion: Visit to Sossusvlei

Day 72: Ai Ais to Orange River, , Namibia or South Africa

We stop over by the Orange River, which is fed by the Fish River. Here we can canoe or raft through some of the most rugged terrain in Southern Africa.

Distance: 179 kms
Est. Drive Time: 3 hours incl. shopping
Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Dinner

Optional excursion: Orange River canoeing.

Day 73: Orange River, Namibia or South Africa, to Klaver Cape Town, South Africa

Travelling into the wine areas of Cape Province we stay in the scenic region of Namaqualand nestled among the wine farms of the Olifants River at the foot of the Cederberg mountain range. Here we have the opportunity to taste a selection of some great wines of the region in the evening.

Distance: Up to 412 kms
Est. Drive Time: +/- 6 hours incl. shopping stop (partly depending on the border)
Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Dinner

Days 74 - 76: Klaver to Cape Town, South Africa

Travelling further south in Western Cape we reach our final destination, Ashanti Lodge, Cape Town. Cape Town is a wonderful place to unwind after our epic trip with plenty of attractions and sights, beaches, shopping, coffee shops and cocktail bars. Here we have two full days to relax and enjoy all there is on offer - the many museums and sites including hiking up the 1000 metre high Table Mountain, a day's wine tour to Stellenbosch and a visit to Robben Island where Mandela was imprisoned during the apartheid era..

If you want to explore further afield, a safari in Kruger National Park can be arranged. Or consider continuing on our Garden Route tour. This follows on from our arrival in Cape Town with two extra days in Cape Town, to visit a picturesque section of South Africa's coastline, as well as Lesotho and the Drakensberg Mountains before finishing in Johannesburg, the 'City of Gold'.

Distance, Day 74: Up to 282 kms
Est. Drive Time, Day 74: +/- 5 hours
Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 contribution to final meal in Cape Town

Optional excursions: Meal out at a restaurant, wine tour, shark dive

Please note this itinerary is given as a guide only. A safari is a journey and true journeys unfold. They are of an adventurous nature. The unexpected can arise, so do allow for this. Feel free to give us a call about your overland safari plans. We look forward to your further enquiries

Other information

[Back to Index](#)

Gorilla trekking

On your trip we travel to the Virunga mountain region in Rwanda and south-west Uganda and from there to one of the gorilla parks for those who wish to trek the mountain gorillas. We book the gorilla permits for your safari ahead of time to visit either Bwindi National Park, or alternatively Mgahinga National Park, depending on availability.

A few things to note about your gorilla trek

Trekking the gorillas is undoubtedly the highlight of most passengers' safari and on average 30 to 40 people trek successfully with us each month in the gorilla parks. In order to protect the gorillas, only eight people trek to see them at a time so, to help you and avoid difficulties at the parks, gorilla permits are booked and paid for in advance. Our aim is always to obtain booking slots back to back to avoid delays and so that the group has the best possible itinerary. Do be aware that permit availability can become very difficult and permits are in high demand. Delays in procuring permits can have an impact on the itinerary so we need to buy permits for your safari well in advance.

If you wish to trek, do return payment as early as possible on receipt of your invoice. Details as to timing of payment will be sent to you upon booking.

Trekking the mountain gorillas is one way of channelling essential and much-needed funds towards protecting this endangered species. Gorilla numbers remain dangerously low and trekking allows you to view these extraordinary creatures whilst also helping them survive. Tourism is making a difference to the gorilla's survival and it is vital that trekking continues to be supportive of this.

The gorilla parks are small and your actions in them have a real impact. Please take note of the following to ensure that trekking continues to impact positively on the gorillas and their environment:

- We will only take part in official walks with a guide. No more than 8 people trek at a time. You will have an hour with the gorillas. Please do not walk alone in the park.
- Coughs, colds and other viruses including diarrhoea are easily transmitted to the gorillas. If you are sick with a cold, flu or contagious illness please do not visit the gorillas. We do ask for your cooperation here.
- When you are with the gorillas do stay together in a tight group and don't surround them. You are asked to keep your distance: a minimum of 7 metres (22 feet). If approached by a gorilla, back away slowly to keep the 7-metre separation.
- Go quietly in the parks. Keep your voice down. Do not wave your arms or point as this can be seen as a threat. Move slowly.
- Please do not use flash. Make sure your flash is switched off. It can frighten the gorillas.
- Please do not smoke, eat or drink with the gorillas or within 200 metres of the gorillas. If you do need to cough or sneeze cover your face and turn away from the gorillas.
- If you need to go to the toilet, dig a 30-centimetre hole and bury it. Take all litter home and please do not pick or remove any plants or wildlife.

Do be aware there can be delays at the gorilla parks and that the gorillas are wild animals roaming in densely forested terrain. To find the gorillas you will trek in their forest home, up steep inclines and in dense jungle. The park guides are experts at finding them and at helping the gorillas feel comfortable and at ease with their visitors. Your guide and the trackers do everything possible to locate the gorillas quickly on your trek but it can be sometimes a long (but very beautiful!) hike. Bear in mind at other times they can be found within an hour.

Whilst your trekkers work very hard to enable you to see the mountain gorillas and 99.9% of clients do see them, a sighting is never guaranteed.

Do be aware the gorillas are located in an area that is subject to some ongoing political unrest. The Rwandan and Ugandan Armies work very hard to maintain security in the region. Gorilla tourism is an important contributor to the Ugandan and Rwandan economy. There is a significant army presence on all borders and much visible security at all Parks and the campsites. Plain-clothes and uniformed security personnel patrol local roads and in the local communities. Do be aware also that armed guards trek with visitors to the gorillas. We are confident that everything possible is being done to ensure security in the area. Our top priority must be the safety and security of our passengers and crew. Security in this region will be of ongoing concern for a while and can never be completely guaranteed as the park is on the border with Democratic Republic of Congo. Do be aware also that if we do perceive any increased security risk in the region we will immediately re-route your safari.

Zanzibar Island

As part of your safari we offer the option to go over to exotic Zanzibar Island for a 4-night stay in bed and breakfast accommodation. Three nights are spent in beach bungalows to the north of the island and then

one night is spent in a lodge in the traditional ancient capital, Stone Town. We also organise a spice tour which provides a fun and fascinating glimpse of the history of the island. We visit the ruins of the Maharubi palace and plantations where exclusive fruits and spices are grown, the island's history being based around the spice trade. Otherwise the time on the island is yours to relax, enjoy the beach, warm waters and fresh seafood. There is a scuba diving centre beside the bungalows and snorkelling is also easily arranged from here.

Accommodation and other arrangements on Zanzibar Island can book out. We have found it best, over many years of overlanding, to prearrange bookings well ahead of time to avoid disappointment and ensure all runs smoothly. If you would like to travel over to the island and stay together with your group and safari leader, these arrangements can be paid for before departure. Paying for these arrangements ahead of time also reduces the amount of cash you need to carry with you to Africa and particularly over to Zanzibar, which is a significant advantage. Most join in with these arrangements on the island, opting for shared accommodation in doubles or triples. Singles are also available, for which there is a supplement.

Money and budgeting

[Back to Index](#)

When working out the costs for your overland safari remember to budget for the following:

Before you go...

1. Your price
2. Your airfare
3. Immunisation and anti-malarials
4. Gorilla permit
5. Zanzibar Island stay
6. Insurance
7. Equipment
8. Visas ahead of time

Step off the plane in Africa with...

9. Spending money – This is very individual and often depends on how much you drink, shop and wish to upgrade. A suggested budget would be 1,530 - 1,845 USD.
10. Local Payment - 850 USD
11. Optional excursions - A traveller who wishes to do most optionals on the trip will spend an average of between 900 - 2,200
12. Visas on the ground : up to 230 USD depending on nationality
13. Pre and Post safari costs

Please note: You need to carry money with you out to Africa to cover Items 9 to 13 (i.e. for your spending money, local payment, optionals, visas and pre and post safari costs). The figures above are conservative estimates for average spending per person on safari. There is a lot of variation in how much spending money individuals need as it is dictated by personal choice, as is your budget for optional activities.

We have no control over local operators' charges and new or other options that become available after our date of printing. Nor can we control exchange rate fluctuations, which can impact on budgets as some items are only payable in USD or are cheaper when purchased in USD. USD often tends to be the preferred currency. Figures quoted are based on regular information we receive from operators, passengers and crew in the past 12 months. You are advised that prices do go up and down very regularly. Our aim is to keep you informed of the most recent prices. In general you will often find that whilst some prices are underestimated at other times they are overestimated.

How do I take this money to Africa?

We strongly recommend that you organise the money you want to take to Africa before you leave for your trip. Clients are currently organising their cash for their safari as follows:

USD cash

We are finding that clients find it most convenient to take between approximately 2,400 - 2,600 USD cash on this trip. This includes money for your local payment, visa payments, some optionals and occasionally

to buy local currency when you can't get to a bank or forex bureau, assuming you are also carrying some sterling or euro cash to use for purchasing local currency for spending money as well.

Please note that in general USD notes need to be dated post 2010 and in good condition. When arranging your USD cash, a range of denominations is probably the most convenient including 5 USD and 10 USD notes as well as 20s, 50s and 100s.

Remember some passport holders will need USD for your visa when you land at Kigali. Also do have suitable notes organised to pay the exact amount for your local payment if at all possible. Your local payment is payable on Day One of the trip.

Pounds Sterling and Euro cash

You may also like to carry up to 100 GBP or EUR cash as well if your money is currently in sterling or euro. This can be useful to buy local currency when you can get to a bank or regular forex bureau. If you are not in sterling or euro consider carrying more USD cash.

When arranging your cash remember small denominations can be useful but the larger denominations will give a better exchange rate. You should also request that your notes are not torn, written on or damaged in any way.

Sterling and euro are best carried as 20s and 50s to be used to buy local currency when you can get to a bank or forex bureau. Please note also that Scottish pound notes are not accepted.

When you arrive in Kigali, you should change up enough money into Rwandan francs to cover all your personal needs such as accommodation, transfers and meals before you meet the truck in the afternoon of day 1. Please note breakfast is not provided on the first day of the safari. We would strongly recommend you change up 70 GBP/EUR at Kigali airport when you arrive if you are currently in sterling or euro. Otherwise change the equivalent in USD.

When you land in Kigali there is a bank open for international arrivals.

Cash is carried at your own discretion and should be organised before you leave for Rwanda.

ATM access and Paying by Card

You can access ATMs and use a credit card on this trip.

Do be aware where ATM access is available you can usually only draw local currency which cannot be used for all your costs. Many of your costs such as the local payment, visas and some of the optionals can only be paid in USD cash. Please note as well that Visa is the preferred card to use for payments.

Travel cards and cash passports are not well known and not widely accepted so not recommended to bring.

Do note that ATMs are not always reliable as they can be out of money, broken or the power could be out so do not solely rely on ATMs.

In places like Jinja, Victoria Falls, Swakopmund and Cape Town a lot of the optionals can also be paid for by card. Note there might be charges for this.

Other things to note in regards to organising your money for Africa

It is not often possible to obtain many of the relevant African currencies prior to going, and where it is possible the rate is usually poor.

Your crew will let you know where is best to change up into local currency as you enter each country. It is best not to organise any local currencies prior to arriving.

For your information the currencies you will meet are:

- Rwanda Rwandan francs
- Uganda Ugandan shillings
- Kenya Kenyan shillings
- Tanzania Tanzanian shillings
- Malawi Malawi kwacha
- Zambia Zambian kwacha
- Botswana Botswana pula
- Namibia Namibian dollars

- South Africa South African rand

Your crew can advise you as to what you will need, where exchanges/banks are available etc. as you travel. You will need to consider as you travel what optionals you will wish to do as well as how much you'll require for your personal needs.

This trip is structured so that most of your costs are 'pay as you go' via the local payment, some optionals and your spending money. This allows you to control your budget and only pay for those things you wish to do. Overland trips have been costed this way for many years and for the following reasons: prices for some optionals can vary a lot month to month; some optionals are quite seasonal, such as specific game parks and whitewater rafting; different clients like to do different options; banking in Africa is quite difficult. By doing it in this way, you also know that your money is regularly going directly to local operators in Africa. Do remember also to carry what you need for before and after the safari on top of the above budget.

What we cover from the price and local payment

GAME DRIVES IN AFRICA'S BIG GAME PARKS AS WELL AS OTHER WILDLIFE RESERVES AND HIGHLIGHTS Incl.

- Lake Mburu National Park
- Nakuru National Park
- Masai Mara (two nights)
- Matopos National Park
- Chobe National Park game cruise
- Etosha National Park (two nights)
- South Luangwa National Park
- Great Zimbabwe Ruins
- Namib Naukluft National Park
- Fish River Canyon
- Mikumi National Park
- Maasai village visit incl. bush walk
- Africat Carnivore Care
- Sossusvlei Dunes
- Cape Cross Seal Colony
- Sheldrick's elephant orphanage
- Nairobi Giraffe Centre
- Genocide Memorial
- Bujagali
- Ziwa Rhino Sanctuary with Rhino Trek
- Lake Naivasha
- Hippo cruise
- Spitzkoppe rock formations or similar
- A visit to a local orphanage
- Lake Malawi

WE ALSO INCLUDE

- A fully equipped and diesel expedition truck/vehicle including all camping and cooking gear, a fridge, gas cooker, tents, sleeping mats etc.
- Services of a driver and safari leader.
- The ongoing advice and back up from The Absolute Team.
- All road tolls and taxes are paid.

CAMPING, BREAKFAST & DINNER WHILST TRAVELLING ON THE TRUCK

i.e.

62 breakfasts & 59 dinners whilst travelling on the truck, including some pre-prepared bbqs and local meals

66 nights accommodation, being 58 camping whilst with the truck including during our stay at Victoria Falls plus 8 nights in simple hostels/hotels including three nights in a lodge in Swakopmund and the final three nights in Ashanti Lodge, Cape Town.

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- Flights including taxes
- Optional excursions as listed
- Pre and post tour Add Ons as well as airport transfers and accommodation
- Lunch and drinks throughout, as well as breakfast and dinner when the truck parks up at Jinja, Arusha, Dar es Salaam, Victoria Falls and Swakopmund
- Camping costs if not participating in an overnight excursion ie Serengeti and Ngorongoro Crater (2 nights), Zanzibar Island (4 nights) and Lake Kariba Houseboats (2 nights), and the Okavango Delta (2 nights)
- Other incidentals including for tips, internet use, upgrades from camping and the occasional cheap excursion such as local walks
- Visas
- Extra equipment including sleeping bag, torch and medical kit
- Personal travel insurance
- Vaccinations and anti malarials as required

Personal Spending Money

This amount is individual and variations in budgets depend largely on how much you spend on souvenirs and drink, as well as on lunch and snacks. It is a regularly updated average that has been provided by the crew and recent clients.

The spending money budget is also calculated to cover meals and occasionally camping those times when the truck is not on the road. In some destinations where there are popular overnight excursions such as on Zanzibar Island or on the houseboats on Lake Kariba meals and camping are not covered. At other busy destinations such as Jinja and Victoria Falls, accommodation is covered but there is so much happening it is impractical to organise meals from the truck. You may also need to spend on personal costs such as email, toiletries etc.

Some weeks you will spend more and other weeks less. The current recommendation to carry as personal spending money for this safari is 1,530 - 1,845 USD. Allow an extra 30 USD per week approximately if you think you might want to occasionally upgrade your accommodation to stay in chalets, which are available at some campsites.

For those who enjoy shopping or even browsing there are many different items to tempt you – Tanzanian makonde carvings and stone chess boards, kangas and kikois, beads and jewellery, Malawi chairs, wooden giraffes and batiks to name just a few.

Regularly 'smallish' optional activities costing under 20 USD also arise. These also will be covered by this spending money. Also, some clients like to buy a T-shirt at Victoria Falls as a souvenir of one of the many activities you might try, or a DVD of 'the big day out'. The Falls is also one of the places where the local restaurants offer huge variety and after weeks on the road, you might be tempted to try them, or even the nightclub or the casino!

Tippling: You may like to consider tips for good service, particularly at some of the main highlights such as after your gorilla trek, Ngorongoro Crater, houseboats at Lake Kariba and the Okavango Delta. You may find that you want to organise these tips as a group or individually.

If eating out in restaurants, a 10% tip is a good guide to follow.

Crew tips are certainly not expected although the Absolute crew do work incredibly hard and often much of this work is done behind the scenes, before or after the group is up and about. A tip or small gift is always appreciated and is also a way to show your appreciation of their efforts if you have had an enjoyable trip.

Do budget carefully to ensure you have adequate spending money to cover all eventualities and enjoy all you wish to do once out in Africa, bearing in mind that it is very difficult to access money from overseas once you are on the trip. Remember also to budget for whatever pre and post safari arrangements you might also have in mind.

Optional activities

These excursions are paid for in Africa with the exception of the gorilla permit and the Zanzibar Island stay, which are booked and paid for in advance if you wish to do these options.

Please contact us if you would like further information about any of these activities or excursions. Please note all optional activities are done at your own risk. Many of the optionals are payable in Africa in USD (cash). A few may be payable in local currencies. (Prices are given as a guide only as at March 2025).

RWANDA

Genocide Memorial audio guide (entry is free)	\$25 USD
Dian Fossey's Grave	\$75 USD
Transport to Dian Fossey's Grave (max 6 people)	\$100 USD/vehicle
Banana Beer Making (price dependent on numbers)	\$18 - \$43 USD
Basket Weaving (price dependent on numbers)	\$19 - \$48 USD

UGANDA

At the Gorillas

Transport to the gorilla trek start point, from	\$40 USD
Suggested tip for your gorilla guide	\$10 - \$15 USD
Orphanage visit transport	\$10 USD
Golden Monkeys entrance	\$100 USD
Transport to golden monkeys (shared cost)	\$100 USD
Batwa village visit	Currently unavailable
Sunset canoe trekking – Lake Mutande	\$25 USD
Coffee Tour	\$35 USD

Kalinzu Forest Chimpanzee trek	\$130 USD
--------------------------------	-----------

At Ziwa rhino sanctuary

Shoebill Canoe Trek	\$25 USD
Birding Tour	\$25 USD
Nature Walk	\$20 USD

Jinja and the White Nile

Full Day Grade 5 or Grade 3 Rafting– min 3 people	\$140 USD
Flat Water Tubing (incl. access to 25m water slide) – min 4 people	\$25 USD
White Water Tubing – min 4 people	\$45 USD

Nile Lunch Cruise including food & cash bar	\$30 USD
Nile Sunset Cruise including snacks & drinks	\$45 USD

Combos	
Raft/Bungee	\$240 USD
Sunset Cruise/Bungee	\$145 USD

Kayak The Nile	
Tandem kayaking	\$160 USD
Introduction to white water half day, from (\$120 – 1 person)	\$95 USD
Introduction to white water full day, from (\$150 – 1 person)	\$125 USD

Kayak Cruises	\$20 USD/hour
Kayak Freedom Rentals (2 people)	
2 hr Bujagali Tour	\$40 USD
Source of the Nile Tour, from (\$100 – 1 person)	\$75 USD

Nile SUP	
SUP Freedom Rentals, from	\$15 USD/hour
2 hr Bujagali Tour	\$40 USD
Half day white water guided trip, from (\$120 – 1 person)	\$95 USD
Full day white water guided trip, from (\$150 USD – 1 person)	\$125 USD

Quad Biking	
Kyabirwa Safari (1 hr)	\$55 USD
Explorer safari (2 hrs)	\$85 USD
River Nile Safari (3 hrs)	\$105 USD
Twilight Safari (3.5hrs including local meal)	\$95 USD
Bungee Uganda	\$115 USD
Mountain Biking (including bike & helmet)	
Freedom Rental, from	\$15 USD
Guided Tour of Bujagali Area (1-2 hours)	\$30 USD
Guided Tour to Bugembe Viewpoint (2-4 hrs)	\$45 USD
Horseback safaris:	
1 Hour	\$45 USD
1.5 Hours	\$55 USD
1.5 Hours Sunset	\$60 USD
KENYA	
Hell's Gate National Park Half Day Cycle Trip	\$55 USD
Crater Lake Sanctuary Walk	\$50 USD
Elsamere for afternoon tea, depending on season	\$10 - \$12 USD
Hippo Boat Cruise	\$35 USD
TANZANIA	
Serengeti and Ngorongoro Crater game drives, 3 days/2 nights	From \$645 USD
Kilimanjaro NP day hike to first camp incl. lunch, guide and park fees	\$125 USD
Marangu Village Tour with visit to coffee plantation, waterfall, local traders etc. incl. lunch and guide	\$60 USD
Zanzibar Island	
Scuba Diving	
• Double tank dive (local)	115 USD
• Single dive (local) from	65 USD
• Discover scuba diving	99 USD
• PADI open water diver (3 days + needed)	499 USD
Snorkeling	
Kendwa, from	\$15 USD
Tumbutu half day, from	\$25 USD
Mnemba (inc lunch), from	\$45 USD
Fishing off the reefs	\$40 USD
Deep sea fishing, boat (takes 5 people), half day from	\$450 USD
Turtle Aquarium, from	\$25 USD
Sunset cruise	\$30 USD
Prison Island Entry and transport (depending on numbers)	\$35 - \$45 USD
Jozani Forest – to visit the red colobus monkeys	
From Stone Town (depending on numbers)	\$40 - \$160 USD
From North (depending on numbers)	\$55 - \$170 USD
MALAWI	
Discover Scuba Diving Lake Malawi – introductory course for those who have never dived before)	\$85 USD
Scuba diving – 1 qualified day dive	\$55 USD
Scuba Diving – 1 qualified night dive	\$75 USD
Scuba Diving – 1 qualified day & night dive	\$115 USD
Snorkelling at Kande(3 hour trip to island incl. gear)	\$20 USD

Sunset boat ride to Island (Min 4 people), per person	\$10 USD
---	----------

ZAMBIA

South Luangwa extra game drive	\$60 USD
Walking safari	\$85 USD

ZIMBABWE

Lake Kariba Houseboats for two nights	\$170 USD
Fishing including park fees, rod, bait, hooks & sinkers	\$20 USD

Extension to full day, Matopos National Park	\$50 USD
--	----------

Victoria Falls by the Zambezi	
• Victoria Falls Entrance	\$50 USD

Please note these prices do not include a Zambian visa if you need to cross over. The Zambian day visa is 20 USD for those that require a visa.

White water rafting packages	
• Whitewater rafting full day low or high water (incl. park fees)	\$149 USD
• Rafting DVD	\$30 USD

Gorge activities	
• Gorge Swing only (1 jump)	\$113 USD
• Single flying fox	\$60 USD
• Single zip line	\$91 USD
• Tandem gorge swing	\$172 USD
• Tandem zip line	\$139 USD
• Canopy Tour	\$70 USD

Bungee Jumping	
• Bungee Jump (111 metres - 3rd highest commercial bungee in the world)	\$168 USD
• Bridge swing	\$116 USD
• Tandem bridge swing	\$166 USD
• Bridge slide	\$50 USD
• Tandem bridge slide	\$72 USD
• Village tour (includes return transfers from Victoria Falls, approx 3 hrs)	\$60 USD
• Elephant encounter	\$149 USD

Helicopter Flights	
• "Flight of the Angels" (Zim side) 15 mins	\$175 USD
• Zambezi Spectacular (Zim side) 15 mins	\$309 USD
• Flight of the Angels (Zam side) 15 mins	\$211 USD
• Zambezi Spectacular (Zam side) 30 mins	\$386 USD

Microlite Flights (Zambia only)	
• Short Flight - 15 mins	\$196 USD
• Long Flight - 30 mins	\$386 USD

Zambezi River Cruises	
• Sundowner cruise (inc transfer, full bar and snacks)	\$60 USD
• Dinner cruise (inc transfers, full bar, snacks and 3 course dinner)	\$105 USD

Horse back safaris	
• Horse Rides - Novice, 2 hours	\$145 USD
• Horse Rides - Experienced, 2 hours	\$145 USD

Adventure Jetboat	\$126 USD
-------------------	-----------

Combo Packages

- | | |
|---|-----------|
| • Half day adrenaline - 1 x gorge swing, 1x zip line, 1x flying fox | \$174 USD |
| • Big Air Combo, 1x bungee, 1x bridge swing, 1x bridge slide | \$230 USD |
| • Rafting & Jetboat Combo | \$220 USD |
| • Rafting & Bunji Combo | \$300 USD |

Upper Zambezi Canoeing

- | | |
|---|-----------|
| • Zambezi drift - incl. transfers, b'fast, drinks and park fees (7am-2.30 pm) | \$150 USD |
|---|-----------|

Livingstone Island (Zambia - own transport)

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------|
| • Devils Pool (incl breakfast) | \$135 USD |
| • Devils Pool (incl lunch) | \$200 USD |
| • Devils Pool (incl high tea) | \$185 USD |

*subject to availability and season

**visa for Zambia and transfers not included

BOTSWANA

- | | |
|--|----------|
| • Chobe National Park - guided game drives | 580 Pula |
| • Okavango Delta guided mokoro safari, two nights three days | 236 USD |
| • Flight over the Delta - min 5 per plane 1 hour, per person | 150 USD |

NAMIBIA

- | | |
|---|------------------|
| • Bushmen village activities (warrior walk, women's village etc.) (200 - 300 N\$) | approx 14-20 USD |
| • Night game drives in Etosha National Park (N\$750) | approx 50 USD |
| • Game drive at Africat reserve (N\$750) | approx 50 USD |

Swakopmund

- | | |
|--|----------|
| • Tandem skydive, from | 4700 N\$ |
| • Sandboarding including lunch with beers and sodas - lie down | 600 N\$ |
| • Sandboarding - stand up | 700 N\$ |
| • Quad biking 2 hours on the dunes | 890 N\$ |
| • Open sea fishing | 2200 N\$ |
| • Township tour with traditional lunch | 900 N\$ |
| • Sea kayaking | 1400 N\$ |
| • Living desert tour | 900 N\$ |
| • Moon landscape and Welwischia tour | 950 N\$ |
| • Seals and Dolphin Cruise | 1350 N\$ |
| • Horse riding 1,5 hours sunset tour, from (1300 N\$ for 1 person) | 1000 N\$ |
| • Sandwich Harbour tour | 2650 N\$ |
| • Fat Bike desert tour | 520 N\$ |
| • Sossusvlei visit | 180 N\$ |

SOUTH AFRICA

- | | |
|---|--------|
| • Canoeing on the Orange River, 2 hours | R 480 |
| • Wine tour | R 1980 |

- Options for consider if you have extra time after your trip in and around Cape Town

- | | |
|---|-------|
| • Topless Bus Cape Town City Tour | R299 |
| • Robben Island | R600 |
| Ferry leaves hourly between 9 and 3. Please speak to your leader about booking ahead of time. | |
| • Cable Car to Table Mountain (return), from | R390 |
| • Abseil Table Mountain | R940 |
| • Paragliding | R1700 |

• Aquarium	R250
• Township tour	R770
• Cape Malay Cooking Experience - Tuesdays and Saturdays	R1460
• Cape Point and Peninsular Tour	R1800
• Skydiving	R3450
• Whale watching tour	R1950
• Wine lands tour	R1675
• White Shark Cage Diving - (inc food, transport and drinks)	R3250

Please be aware that shark diving is very weather dependent so do get your booking in as early and quickly with time allowed if possible the next day in case you cant go on your original booked date.

Further information in regards to optional excursions and spending money

Paying for excursions in Africa allows you to decide what you wish to do as you travel. Bear in mind that some activities such as white water rafting and also some game parks can be seasonal. Please note also that prices constantly fluctuate in Africa, partly due to exchange fluctuation. The above figures are the very latest currently available to us at the time of writing.

Lunch, drinks, souvenirs and your evening meals on Zanzibar are also covered by your spending money.

Updates on the price for all optional excursions are usually available in the update information we send out about two months before departure. Do check for the latest copy of this document as well which is available on line. Do be aware though that you are covering an enormous amount of territory on this trip and visiting many destinations, and consequently you may well spend a lot. Africa is 'not cheap' particularly when you add in game park entries and the cost of adventure sports such as tandem sky diving, whitewater rafting, scuba diving and the gorge swing. Much of what you see though will afford you priceless memories and allow you to be actively involved to the limit. Much of what you spend also enables much needed cash to go to local people and wildlife conservation.

The optionals listed are usually those most clients wish to do. If you choose not to do an optional activity do bear in mind this is your chance to catch up on washing, communications, read, relax and take time for yourself. During these periods the truck is usually parked up at a campsite where there are adequate facilities for you to be quite comfortable while you wait. Your crew will also, when possible, help you with alternative activities – e.g. safe places to take local walks that might be available throughout the route, swim, cycle, hire a canoe, kick a soccer ball around with the local kids, go fishing, camel ride, visit the local markets or post office, a cinema, a museum, golf course, church, club or coffee shop.

There is a range of availability as to what there is to do from destination to destination on the itinerary. At some places such as Victoria Falls and Swakopmund there is a lot of choice and either/or optional choices. It is physically probably impossible to do all there is to do at Victoria Falls. At other destinations, which are quieter, there are fewer choices if you do not do the listed optional excursion/s. This is worth noting particularly for optionals that last over one or two nights as you may not wish to be on your own at a campsite for an extended period such as when the group visit Kariba Houseboats. Do bear in mind also with the houseboats in particular that they allow you to visit Chete Island for game walks or alternatively Matusadona National Park, and as well give the group a welcome break from camping and cooking.

If you would like further details of any of the different optionals for the safari do not hesitate to contact the office. It is a group participation safari so it is worthwhile thinking and planning ahead as to what you personally might like to do and to work out a realistic budget accordingly.

Please note also every safari is individual and it is not possible to detail all the possible optionals you will have a choice to do nor to predict new options that can arise. We will endeavor to provide another accurate price update for you just prior to departure. Please note also though we have no control over local operators' prices or government taxes. Nor do we just select operators on price, many factors have to be weighed up when selecting operators. We are always keen to get information on new operators and the best prices but do be aware that deals come and go constantly in Africa. Consistent service delivery and safe and respectful ethical practices are also worth searching for and rewarding. Your crew will work very hard to ensure you get the best value for money day to day on the road.

If you would like any assistance in regard to your budget please do not hesitate to get in touch with us.

We ask that you carry your possessions in one large back pack, travel bag or soft suitcase (65 to 85 litre maximum). Day to day necessities can also be kept in an additional day bag, which should be large enough to carry your needs for two to three days at a time. Please note we reserve the right to refuse any extra baggage and sending it home or storing it will be at your own cost.

You should carry your valuables in a flat money belt which you wear against your skin.

Do remember travelling light is always wise and particularly when going overland. Passengers also often buy a lot of African souvenirs on the way.

The vehicles have good storage capacity to carry souvenirs and lockups in the vehicle for your valuables, pack and day bag. There is a locker under your seat for easy access for day to day essentials.

The following list details essentials as well as non-essentials. It is a guide only. If you are unsure about specific items please feel free to ring us.

You need to bring:

- Travel documents including passport (including relevant visas) and air tickets
- Booking Voucher with Final Receipt - essential for immigration purposes
- Vaccination documentation, particularly for yellow fever shot
- Insurance policy
- US\$ cash for your optionals, local payment and spending money
- Credit card - preferably Visa
- Please ensure you have your Rwanda visa or entry facility confirmation

Other items to consider

- Student/YHA card
- PADI licence/diving ticket
- International driver's licence
- Photocopies of main documents (keep separately)

Essential camping equipment

- Sleeping bag and sheet.
- Eating utensils, including cutlery, cup, plate/bowl.
- Torch and batteries, a head torch being the most useful.
- Mosquito repellent (DEET) 50% strength – up to x3 bottles
- Insect repellent spray
- High-factor sun block cream
- Lip salve/Chap Stick
- Padlock
- Small personal medical kit including: anti-malarials, vitamin tablets, paracetamol, antibiotic powder, Band-Aids, cotton wool, sterile gloves, flu medication for coughs, colds and sinuses, rehydration salts, sports injury cream for sprains, an antihistamine, immodium, treatment for tummy bugs, stings/bites and sunburn and eye drops. If you wear contact lenses you are advised to carry disposables.

Other items

- Pocket knife
- 1 litre water container. Make sure it screws tight.
- Non plastic bags for wet items, rubbish and to keep items dust-free
- Towel
- Antibacterial soap
- Condoms
- Tissues
- A means of securing your hair back is useful such as a bandana, a scarf, beanies, hair ties and clips as it can be windy driving on the truck
- Cigarette lighter
- Concentrated travel washing liquid or washing powder, clothesline

- Emergency sewing kit
- Tweezers, nail scissors, nail brush.

You will probably find it worthwhile to pick up a cheap blanket once you arrive.

In regards to toiletries these are available to buy in Africa including shampoo, soap, toilet paper and tampons. Please note though they can be quite expensive and it can be time-consuming sourcing particular items. Carry some toiletries at least for your first month.

Ensure you bring any medications you might require with you with the script.

The two most common gynecological problems that may occur whilst travelling in Africa are thrush and urinary tract infections. If you know you are prone to either of these it may pay to seek advice from your doctor and bring the necessary treatments. Loose fitting, cotton underwear and clothes are always wise.

To consider:

- Binoculars
- Pillow
- Wet Ones can be useful
- Books
- Writing paper, pens
- Mossie net impregnated with permethrin or similar if you want to sleep out of your tent at any time on safari, particularly in the warmer months (tents have in-built mossie nets at door and openings).

Electrical items

- Mobile phone
 - Text messaging can be a good way to stay in touch with the outside world. Remember if you are on international roaming the charges will be very high to make and receive phone calls.
 - If communication is very important to you, sim cards can be purchased very cheaply on the road.
 - Some clients have their phone unlocked before arriving in Africa whilst coverage is not always good on this tour
- Smartphone/Music player including headphones if you want to listen to your own music
- Camera in a protective case and spare memory card(s)
For SLR cameras we recommend a telephoto of 120 mm (or similar) or an 80-200 mm zoom
- 2 camera batteries
- Polarising filter/lens hood for SLRs
- USB cable – to connect to internet cafes or for downloading
- Camcorder

Charging your equipment

If bringing a camcorder, digital camera, iPod or mobile, your equipment can be charged from the truck. The trucks have 600 watt Intelligent Power Inverters converting 24v DC to AC mains electricity (220-240v). This will be sufficient for charging any photographic equipment required. Remember to bring all necessary cables.

You will also want to bring a mains international adapter to charge at campsites as an alternative. A spare battery pack, where possible, is also advised.

Clothes

Please double check the weather conditions for your particular safari when packing. Cotton and loose fitting items are preferable. Do also realise that any white clothing won't stay that way!

- Lightweight cotton clothing, shorts and T-shirts as well as shirts with long sleeves and long pants including casual wear for nights out. Long pants, sarongs and sandals are fine for these times
- Lightweight waterproof jacket and a fleece
- Swimming costume, sun hat, sunglasses, sandals
- Lightweight closed-in comfortable walking boots, shoes or trainers with a non-slip tread which give enough support and good traction. Please avoid shoes that get too heavy and hot, 'platforms', high heels or 'strappy' sandals
- Spare shoelaces

We would encourage you to bring clothes that will wear well, as travelling in Africa is very hard on clothes.

Conditions are rough and belongings do get dusty and can get damaged. Soft bush colours are most suitable. Being able to layer clothing that can be removed easily as the day heats up is an advantage. This also helps to keep valuables inconspicuous. Clothes with zip and velcro pockets are sensible. Due to the bumpy road conditions women are advised to bring at least one sports bra. Women should dress 'modestly', respecting the sensibilities and attitudes of the people and countries they are visiting. This is of particular importance for your stay on Zanzibar. Note as well that G-String bikini bottoms can cause embarrassment and concern in some regions of southern Africa.

Be aware that camouflage clothing should be avoided.

Life on your big yellow truck

[Back to Index](#)

Day to day it is essential that everyone helps out with every routine chore. The trips are participatory in nature - the more you put in to the group and the trip the more you will get out of it. Overland safaris are very much about everyone willingly getting involved and working as a team. A roster is established for duties. Tasks you will need to be involved in are: cooking and shopping, assistant to the cook, washing up, cleaning the truck, filling the jerry cans, lighting the fires and truck guard duty.

On safari do follow all instructions given by your safari leader as to how to use equipment, move around on, and enter and exit the truck as well as how to maintain all supplies. Please also follow all cleaning and washing procedures carefully to avoid infections being spread. Seat belts are fitted on the truck. For your safety please use these.

It is essential in order to keep to schedules that you listen at group meetings to know what is happening and when, on the following day. Please follow all instructions carefully in regard to border crossings. Most trucks will also have an information folder on the truck with information as to what is happening for the next few days. For the group to function well you do need to keep informed as to what is happening and use group meetings to help the group work together. Please feel free to discuss any matter with the crew and to use group meetings. Do remember you are on a group safari and it is also as valuable to listen to other people's ideas as well as contribute your own. Your crews have been trained, do know your route and will facilitate group discussions and will advise to the best of their abilities.

On a daily basis you are encouraged to look out for each other and be considerate of everyone else's needs and wishes. Your group will be made up of individuals all wanting to get the most out of their trip and at the same time each of you will have your own specific likes and dislikes, needs and wishes. These are group adventure camping safari, not a 5 star holiday! A sense of humour and patience are essentials to pack! The group experience of seeing your safari through together on the truck is one of the really exciting and fun aspects of the trip. For some, the group experience and day to day life on the truck becomes a main highlight.

Often on the road you will be up early for breakfast. Wherever possible, you buy lunch in local markets and you then have opportunities to mix in with the local community and organise anything you need to including ensuring you have enough drinking water. Remember how important it is to keep up your fluid levels during the trip. Please note we cannot guarantee the provision of regular clean drinking water from the truck throughout the safari and you do need to organise your water day to day. At most campsites the truck can easily access clean drinking water and you will find the water carried on the truck is often drinkable, particularly once we head south into Tanzania. Where this is not the case it is advisable to buy your own bottled water, which is readily available and most campsites now sell sealed bottled mineral water. When purchasing your water do check that the bottles are sealed.

Drive times in Africa, even in southern and eastern Africa can be difficult to predict so do be prepared for the occasional situation when the plot changes!! Getting bogged is an essential optional extra...be prepared. And in general, be ready for some occasional long and dusty drives. These are based on ongoing and careful scheduling decisions to ensure you get to the current 'must see' places.

On the road there is always a lot to see but also too, you may like to bring some good books and an iPod to listen to your own music. The occasional long drives are deemed essential by crew to get you where you want to be in the time given.

Schedules and itineraries

When you go on safari do remember our aim at all times is to enable you to have an experience of a lifetime at an affordable price. Due to the nature of Africa - weather, politics, road conditions, lack of infrastructure, border restrictions, breakdown, sickness, etc. - it is not always possible to exactly follow departure/arrival dates and routes. The best plans can unravel and in a lot of ways that is all part of the adventure that makes your safari. Itineraries and truck schedules can be changed at any stage prior or during your safari particularly in consideration of crew needs, weather and road conditions as well as security concerns, truck servicing requirements and booking patterns. Whilst we do all we can to avoid making changes please note we do reserve the right to change vehicles and/or crew on a safari at any time without notifying passengers.

The trips are made up of components and quite often during the safari you will probably meet clients doing shorter and longer sections of your trip depending on the booking patterns for the months you are travelling.

Camping

We supply large, durable three-person tents complete with ground sheet and separate waterproof fly sheet, ideal for Africa's varied conditions. They also have mossie netting in-built at the doors and openings. These are used for two people only.

We also supply high-density foam roll mats.

All cooking equipment is supplied including pots and pans, gas cookers, a cool box, lighting, fire-grate, cooking bench, chairs and shelter. The truck also has a large fridge.

It is a participation trip and part of your every day routine will be to put up your own tent and be involved in all the daily chores on a daily basis including cooking and cleaning. For reasons of personal hygiene, we ask you to supply your own cup, plate and cutlery. You may wish to bring your own mossie net as well if you think you may wish to sleep out of your tent, particularly in the hotter months. It can become warm in the tents. Please note your net needs to be large enough to tuck in under your roll mat.

There is also the occasional opportunity to upgrade to dorm-style chalet or simple hut accommodation with a bed if you think you might need a break from camping. This usually costs about 20 USD a night. Availability though is very limited and you need to be considerate of everyone else on the truck. Do budget accordingly though if you might wish to upgrade once or twice en route.

The facilities in the campsites we use vary a lot. In general you will find campsites that are clean, may give a little hot water, and can have working flush toilets. Be aware though that water pressure is often very weak and toilets can be long drop style. Please do not come on your African adventure camping safari expecting pristine bathroom facilities...

You will find we may also camp in the bush a couple of times during this trip under the African night sky. Your truck is well equipped for these opportunities but be prepared to 'rough it' a little these nights and enjoy the chance to camp out in the wild.

Please remember when leaving a campsite we do expect you to be diligent to leave places as you find them if not better. In particular we insist that cigarette butts and toilet paper are not left behind when free camping... we are just visitors here in a continent with extraordinary challenges and dilemmas to face. Do be responsible as you travel.

Sickness

All our trucks have a medical kit, which has been put together by tropical expedition specialists for emergency use only. The foreign embassies throughout Africa provide English-speaking doctors for emergency situations. If you do become ill we will transport you as soon as possible to the nearest health clinic and your crew will do all they can to assist. You will always have a friendly escort.

Meals and cooking on the truck

Day to day meals are prepared from the truck using both the non perishable supplies we buy in bulk prior to the safari and fresh supplies we buy as we travel. Staying fit and healthy on safari is a priority as we do keep busy and we want you to enjoy all you do. Everyone takes turns on a roster basis cooking for the group, being 'assistants' to the cooks and with the clean up. The safari leader assists with menus, recipes and loads of ideas as well as being directly involved with cooking as needed. She/he is available to provide support and encouragement at any time during meal preparation. Cooking together is lots of fun and all

part of the group experience! The sort of meals provided day to day are spaghetti and pasta dishes, stir fries, cottage pies, kebabs, curries, stews and casseroles, hamburgers or jacket potatoes, which are then complimented with rice and/or salads. Breakfast is usually fruits, muesli and/or other cereals, toast, as well as some regular cooked breakfasts like eggs, bacon, baked beans or pancakes.

There are also a few pre-arranged meals booked ahead of time so the whole group can occasionally relax in the evenings in the knowledge that someone else is doing the cooking. This frees up the itinerary so you can enjoy a little more of Africa.

We also use these opportunities to enjoy a couple of traditional local meals on safari and as well arrange a seafood buffet so the group can experience seafood fresh from the Indian Ocean. We also can contribute in part to the final restaurant meal together in Cape Town.

Special diets

For vegetarians we do all possible to ensure a good supply of veggies, salads, fruits, beans, pastas and rice. The diet leans towards vegetarian day to day as fresh quality meat is not easily accessed every day. The staples are beans, pastas, pulses, and rice, as well as fresh fruit and vegetables when available and in season. In restaurants, when meals are ordered ahead of time, vegetarian options are available with usually good supplies of fresh fruits, veggies and salads. Do be aware though how spoilt we are in the Western world with our constant supplies of fruit and veggies regardless of the season. In reality, and more naturally, fruit and vegetable supplies are seasonal, may not be as chemically assisted and can also be difficult to access en route. We will do all we can to ensure supplies where possible.

We can also cater for gluten-free, vegans, wheat-free and dairy-free diets, supplying soymilk, rice noodles, gluten-free cereals etc.

When booking, do remember to let us know if you have any specific dietary requests.

Safety and security whilst on safari

Travelling as a group does provide you with an added level of security. Perhaps the most important factor to always bear in mind when travelling in Africa is to be constantly vigilant as to your own and your group's health and security.

Personal safety

Do be very aware of protecting your cash and valuables at all times and do not walk around flaunting valuables e.g. cameras, jewellery and money. Remember even cheap jewellery can look expensive! Day to day, layer your clothing to keep valuables inconspicuous and take clothes preferably with zip and velcro pockets.

Money Belts - The most efficient money belts are ones that go under your clothing, against your skin. If you use a bum bag please only carry small amounts of local currency in it that you are prepared to lose.

Do not leave anything unattended anywhere - including in your tent - and avoid being crushed in large crowds. Be very careful when you walk after dark; never walk alone or become separated from the group. Take taxis in cities at night and around unfamiliar areas. When taking taxis always agree on a price before setting off.

ATMs are becoming more accessible on the route, you must also be wary of security of crimes around ATMs. Be discreet when withdrawing cash and as always be very careful with your card and cash.

Truck security

Your truck will have a lockable safe in which to keep your passport and valuables. You will also have a lockable place on the truck to keep your day bag. Your backpack is stored underneath the truck. The truck is never left unattended. Do be aware on safari you will be required in certain locations to assist with watching that all is safe and secure with other passengers. Please note whilst all precautions will be taken in regards to valuables left on the vehicle we cannot be held responsible for any damage or loss from the vehicle.

Do listen carefully to all instructions regarding security issues given by your crew and local operators as we travel. Before travelling you are also advised to keep yourself informed and up to date as to the current political situation in the countries through which we travel and to check out the Foreign Office Travel Advice. If you are a British, Australian or New Zealand citizen you may like to look at: www.fco.gov.uk, www.dfat.gov.au or www.mfat.govt.nz.

Remember this is a group experience you are booking. It is a condition of booking that you follow the group leader's instructions and take responsibility for your rostered tasks. It is important that every member of the group is attentive and looks out for each member of the group's health and security. All in your group will appreciate your co-operation with this.

Photography

African authorities often require that tourists do not take pictures of bridges, airports, railway stations or military installations. We are often in areas where locals are not used to being photographed and we ask you to show them every courtesy. If in doubt it is always best to ask first.

Trading, donating and supporting

You may wish to consider if you want to bring items such as old T-shirts, sunglasses, cheap watches, old walkmans/discmans and mobiles to trade.

Please be aware we strongly discourage giving away 'something for nothing' from the truck, whilst we are very happy on the other hand to donate pens, books etc. to schools. Do note it is also very unwise to donate cash en route. If you wish to donate something whilst in Africa remember pens, crayons, balls, books, soap and stickers are always welcome in schools and orphanages. For more ideas feel free to contact us.

For projects we support check out the website or contact us.

Problems or issues you may have while on the tour

Where you have any issue at all during the tour, talk to the tour leader at the very earliest as this could affect the rest of your trip. The tour leader is there to help and they can't if you don't let them know the issue. Your driver is always happy to chat as well if the tour leader isn't available.

Remember as well these are group participation trips. Group meetings are there so everyone can talk about what's happening day to day so do raise any niggles or queries at the meetings.

If you do experience a problem while you are on the tour such as feeling unwell, not getting along with a fellow traveller or if there is something that you are unhappy with in regard to the running of the tour or anything else that is bothering you or stopping you from having an enjoyable trip, please do inform your tour leader directly of the problem as a priority. They will want to know. Once they know they can take the appropriate actions to resolve the issue as quickly as possible. All and any issues will be treated with the utmost confidentiality.

Everyone at Absolute Africa works very hard to ensure our travellers have the very best of trips. Should you have a continuing problem that you feel is not being addressed effectively it is your responsibility to email or contact the office at the very earliest. Detailing your concern in writing in an email is usually the best way to explain. We will then look into this immediately to see how the problem can be resolved so you can continue to have an enjoyable tour. Further details can be seen in our Terms and Conditions (14).

General code of conduct

We are ambassadors for our respective countries. How we act on safari should reflect this. An open mind, and a desire to have a positive impact, are vital attitudes to carry. A sense of humour is also an essential to pack for any safari in Africa.

We ask that each member of the group looks out for each other. These trips are about group participation and each member needs to do all he or she can to enable your group to work well together.

Day to day be sensitive and aware of how you and your group are being perceived by those around you. Be alert to where you are, sensitive when taking photos, aware of how much noise we are making, careful of how you are dressed. Everyone wants to have the best time possible in Africa and there are plenty of chances to have a trip of a lifetime. Excessive noise, obscenities and inappropriate behaviour cannot be tolerated - we need to show respect for the places we visit and the people we meet enroute. It can embarrass other members of the group and seriously upset those around us, particularly in campsites and restaurants. You will get more out of your trip if you are responsive, discreet and sensitive to the world around you.

Be particularly alert to the impact of excessive drinking as you travel. Alcohol abuse will put your health at risk, particularly in malarial zones. For safety reasons we insist that alcohol is not drunk on the trucks.

There is also a strict no smoking rule onboard the trucks, and no-smoking areas will be set up for meal times.

There are serious penalties in Africa with regard to illegal substances.

Game parks are a spectacular sight. We ask that you show respect and keep noise to a minimum. Everybody's game viewing on an ongoing basis is better served if our impact on a park is kept to a minimum. Do be attentive to all signs and instructions as to how to behave in game parks.

We won't leave a campsite until it is entirely clean. Your enthusiasm with packing up camp to ensure all is left clean is appreciated.

In a serious situation where behaviour is disruptive and/or dangerous the Safari Leader can step in and will remove you from the trip. Don't spoil your trip or someone else's trip.

Keeping in touch

It can be quite difficult and also expensive staying in touch whilst you are travelling in Africa. Please let your family know that this will be the case, particularly if you are usually in touch on a regular basis. In an emergency if your family needs to get in touch they should contact the London office and we will do all we can to assist.

E-mail - you will be able to access email in Ruhengeri, Jinja, Nairobi, Arusha, Zanzibar, Lusaka, Victoria Falls, Swakpmund and Cape Town. Please note internet speed is quite often very slow so be warned!

Post - Letters from the U.K. to Africa take approximately 10 - 14 days and from Australia or New Zealand to Africa approximately 2-3 weeks. Please be aware that articles regularly going missing in the post.

If you did need to have something sent to you while travelling please contact the office as to the best destination and address to use

Please do not have anything of value posted to Africa en route, including credit cards or prescription drugs. We would also advise against having birthday and Christmas parcels posted. In an emergency if something needs to be got out to you, the London office should be contacted for further advice.

Language

English is understood in most East and Southern African countries. Learning some Chichewa, Swahili and Shona will ensure a warm response from the locals.

The Great Migration

[Back to Index](#)

The migration covers over 3,000 kilometers on the combined stage of the Serengeti and Masai Mara plains. It is a constant movement of 2.5 million animals and may well be the highlight of your Safari (depending on the season). Follow the link for our chart which will show you where you are most likely to see the migratory herds each month of the year: www.absoluteafrica.com/The-Migration

For information on where you should be able to see which animal, as well as other useful facts, check out the spreadsheet on the next page.

With such a huge variety of wildlife to see in Africa - we have put together a quick reference guide to help you plan your safari so you know what animals might be found in game parks in each country.

ABSOLUTE AFRICA



BIG FIVE	Group Name	Average Gestation (months)	Average Life Span (years)	Status	Diet	Distribution as at June 2010									
						Kenya	Uganda	Rwanda	Tanzania	Malawi	Zambia	Zimbabwe	Botswana	Namibia	South Africa
Lion	pride	3.7	15	VU	C	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
African Elephant	herd	22	70	VU	H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cape Buffalo	herd	11	17	LC	H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Leopard	solitary	3	20	NT	C	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Rhinoceros	crash/herd	6	35	CR	H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
White	crash/herd	6	35	NT	H	Introduced	Reintroduced	✓	✓	✓	Reintroduced	Reintroduced	✓	✓	✓
Cheetah	coalition	3	11	VU	C	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Spotted Hyena	clan	4	25	LC	O	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
African Wild/Painted Dog	pack	2.5	11	EN	C	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Blue Wildebeest (Gnu)	herd	8.5	20	LC	H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Giraffe	herd/corps/tower	15	28	LC	H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Plains/Burchell's Zebra	herd/harem	12	28	LC	H	✓	Introduced	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Oryx/Gemsbok	herd	8.5	20	LC	H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Sitatunga	herd/group	7.5	19	LC	H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Greater Kudu	herd	9	7.5	LC	H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Common Eland	herd	9.2	17.5	LC	H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Impala	herd	6.5	12	LC	H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Thomson's Gazelle	herd	6	10.5	NT	H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Gerenuk	group	7	20	NT	H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Dik-dik	monogamous pair	6	3.5	LC	H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Warthog	sounder	5.7	15	LC	H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mountain Gorilla	group/troop	8.5	45	EN	H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Chimpanzee	group/community	8	50	EN	O	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Baboon	troop/congress	6	25	LC	O	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Golden Monkey	group/troop	5	19	EN	O	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Zanzibar Red Colobus Monkey	group	6	20	EN	O	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Rock Hyrax/Dassie	colony	7	12	LC	H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Banded Mongoose	group	1.7	8	LC	C	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Common Genet	solitary	2.5	8	LC	O	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Meerkat	mob/gang	2.5	13	LC	O	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Hippopotamus	pod/herd	7.9	50	VU	H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Nile Crocodile	bask/float	3*	45	LC	C	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Common Bottlenose Dolphin	pod	12	20	LC	C	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Status: LC = Least Critical, NT = Near Threatened, VU = Vulnerable, EN = Endangered, CR = Critically Endangered DIET: C = Carnivore, H = Herbivore, O = Omnivore * Incubation not gestation

For those of you who want to read before you go, here are a few suggested titles:

The Africans	David Lamb
Malaria Dreams	Stuart Stevens
Out of Africa	Karen Blixen
Letters from Africa	Karen Blixen
Venture Into The Interior	Laurens Van der Post
Gorillas in the Mist	Dian Fossey
A Good Man in Africa	William Boyd
The Grass is Singing	Doris Lessing
African Laughter	Doris Lessing
The Tree Where Man Was Born	Peter Matthiessen
African Silences	Peter Matthiessen
Cry the Beloved Country	Alan Paton
The Weather in Africa	Martha Gellhorn
Zanzibar	Giles Foden
Mukiwa A white Boy in Africa	Peter Godwin
Don't Let's Go the dogs tonight	Alexandra Fuller
I Dreamed of Africa	Kuki Gallman
Songs to an African Sunset	Sekai Nzenza- Shand
The Scramble for Africa	Thomas Pakenham
Disgrace	J.M. Coetzee
The State of Africa	Martin Meredith
Mugabe: Power, Plunder and the Struggle for Zimbabwe	Martin Meredith
Blood River	Tim Butcher
The Zanzibar Chest	Aiden Hartlet
Sowing the Mustard	Yoweri Museveni
In the footsteps of Mr Kurtz	Michela Wrong
River God and The Seven Scrolls, and various other titles	Wilbur Smith
Out of Shadows	Jason Wallace
A Sunday at the Pool in Kigali	Gill Courtemanche
Africa on a Shoestring	Geoff Crowther
Healthy travel Africa	Isabelle Young, Lonely Planet 2000

Lonely Planets, Bradts and Rough Guides are always a mine of information

A 746 Michelin map will give you a good insight into where you are travelling.

A friendly note that conditions, prices and details change constantly in Africa and what may be appropriate and/or correct one day is not necessarily the case the next. Much time and effort goes into keeping this information as up to date as possible. At the same time do not treat this document as 'the bible' for your safari. It is a guide only to assist in steering you in the right direction.

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to get in touch. We are more than happy to assist.

Queries about your safari booking should be directed to Absolute Africa. We are available on Skype and Live Chat, or feel free to email us at our bookings office at bookings@absoluteafrica.com

25th March 2025