



Zanzibar to the Gorillas

MAKE TRACKS FOR AFRICA

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

Departure dates

Depart Dar es Salaam	Arrive Kigali	Price
17 Oct 2022	04 Nov 2022	£2,690
08 Jan 2023	26 Jan 2023	£2,690
07 Feb 2023	25 Feb 2023	£2,690
13 Jun 2023	01 Jul 2023	£2,690
13 Jul 2023	31 Jul 2023	£2,690
09 Aug 2023	27 Aug 2023	£2,690
17 Sep 2023	05 Oct 2023	£2,690

Countries visited: Tanzania • Rwanda • Uganda

Highlights: Zanzibar Island for four nights • Spice tour • Snorkelling and scuba diving • Mnemba Atoll • Prison Island and the giant tortoises • Dolphin boat cruise • Red colobus monkey trek • Bagomoyo • Serengeti National Park • Ngorongoro Crater • Maasai boma • The Grumeti Reserve • The Genocide Memorial and Museum • Mountain gorilla trek • Golden monkey trek • Orphanage visit • Batwa village visit .

Safari structure: The Zanzibar to the Gorillas trip commences in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. The tours are comprised of components and on this trip you will meet travellers who may be doing shorter or longer components of this program..

Index

[Back to 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 3
Visa requirements	Page 3
Pre and post safari information	Page 4
Health and immunisation	Page 6
Detailed itinerary	Page 8
Gorilla permits	Page 11
Money and budgeting	Page 12
Packing - what to bring, packing advice incl. electrical equipment	Page 16
Life on your big yellow truck (Including advice on safety and security, trading and donating, general code of conduct, keeping in touch)	Page 18
The migration	Page 22
Wildlife chart	Page 23
Further reading	Page 24

Flights

When arranging your flights we suggest that you arrive during the day on the day this tour begins. There is an international airport in Dar es Salaam. We meet up that evening for the pre departure meeting.

You will find it most convenient at the end of the tour to fly out from Kigali. The trip usually arrives into Kigali by late morning on the last day. Return flights should be arranged to depart no earlier than 4pm on the final day.

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 Dar es Salaam and out of Kigali including Kenya Airways, KLM/Air France, Lufthansa, Qatar Airways, Emirates, Swiss Airlines and Ethiopian Airways.

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 organize your flights as soon as you can once you decide to travel.

We can assist you with flight advice if you need. Please feel free to contact us 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 the trip. If it does not, remember to keep the 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.

Check out the following link to 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 nature of overland travel, and that any hazardous activities you intend to undertake are fully covered, including snorkeling, scuba diving, trekking Kilimanjaro, volunteer work etc

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 as to the latest official government Travel Advice.

Visa requirements

[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 with some extra. As a guide then, for the Zanzibar to the Gorillas you will need to have a minimum of 4 blank pages (sides).

If you have dual nationality you can only use one passport for the entire trip, whilst bringing both 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.

Visas for Tanzania for most passport holders including British, Australian, New Zealand, Irish, South African, German, French, Dutch, Canadian and American passport holders can be easily arranged on arrival in Tanzania. Visas bought on the ground can only be paid for in US dollars cash.

Please note that since June 2014 the East African Tourist Visa has been introduced for multiple entry to Rwanda, Uganda and Kenya. Whilst we don't visit Kenya on this tour, where this visa is being issued it should still provide a saving in money and time. The East Africa visa is U\$100 for all passports and this must be purchased before travelling to Africa by applying to Rwanda. The new visa is reflected in the chart below.

Please note that Irish citizens do not require a visa for Uganda and so it is most cost effective to purchase a single entry visa as we travel through the border from Tanzania, and then purchase another single entry visa as we return to Rwanda from Uganda. The single entry visa is 30 USD for each entry. For ease, though you may prefer to pre-apply to Rwanda for the East Africa visa as above. This will save you time at the borders.

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

Passport	Tanzania	Rwanda	Uganda	Total No.	Total in US\$
Australian	\$50	\$100	-	2	\$150
New Zealand	\$50	\$100	-	2	\$150
South African	-	\$100	-	1	\$100
Canadian	\$50	\$100	-	2	\$150
American	\$100	\$100	-	2	\$200
British	\$50	\$100	-	2	\$150
German	\$50	\$100	-	2	\$150
Dutch	\$50	\$100	-	2	\$150
Irish	\$100	\$60	-	3	\$160
French	\$50	\$100	-	2	\$150

The above information covers current visa requirements for British, New Zealand, Australian, Irish, South African, Canadian, American, Dutch, French and German 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. You are ultimately responsible for your own visa arrangements. We do ask that you also check your personal current visa requirements with the relevant embassies well in advance before you travel. For more information on visas check out www.projectvisa.com

Pre and post safari information

[Back to Index](#)

Joining in Dar es Salaam

This tour commences at Mikadi Campsite on Kigamboni Peninsula in Dar es Salaam, early evening on the first day. The truck usually arrives late afternoon with clients that have travelled from southern Africa who will continue on over to Zanzibar and through to the game parks with you. Please be ready to meet up at 5.30 PM.

We can reserve accommodation for you prior to departure in Dar es Salaam if you are arriving earlier.

Mikadi Beach Campsite

Mikadi has beach bandas with shared bathroom for U\$30 per banda and ensuite beach bandas for U\$45 per banda. The rooms can sleep two people.

The campsite is on the beach and has a swimming pool and a bar/restaurant. Transfers can be arranged from Dar es Salaam Airport to the camp.

Departing Dar es Salaam

The crew will organise a meeting on the evening of Day One 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 dossier carefully as well. The crew will also organise rosters and tent partners, show you how to put up your tent, and 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. During the tour 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.

Security in Dar es Salaam

Make sure you stay alert at all times and take sensible precautions. It's best to 'dress down'. Don't wear or carry anything valuable or new including cameras. Please keep mobile phones inconspicuous. Do not leave anything of value lying around on display in your room at the hotel. Take great care in the city centre and do not walk on the streets at night.

Important pre-safari details

Upon booking this overland tour we provide you with a form on which you can advise us before departure of all your booking requirements in Dar es Salaam, as well as any transfers you need. You can 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 Tanzania on safari.

Please remember to carry this with your personal documents. A booking voucher is issued upon receipt of final payment. It also has emergency contact details in the event you require assistance in transit. Remember too, if you require a visa for Rwanda, to carry your entry facility if you haven't prepaid your visa.

Arriving in Tanzania–Julius Nyerere international Airport, Dar es Salaam

At the airport, the signs are in English and Swahili. There is always a bank open for international arrivals.

You will find banks to your right after you collect your backpack before you go through customs. You should change up enough money into Tanzanian shillings for what you need until you meet the truck or can next get to a bank. Do remember you need to pay for any meals you will have before the trip starts, as well as your accommodation and transfers prior to departure.

NB: For rough budgeting/banking purposes, in Tanzania the exchange rate is currently USD 1 = 2,313 TZS (February 2022).

Travelling into Dar es Salaam

The airport is situated 10 km from the centre of town. The easiest way to get into town and to Mikadi beach is to use a taxi. For your own personal safety and security, do not get the local bus into town. If you would like us to order a taxi for you ahead of time so that there is someone waiting for you at the airport, do let us know using the previously mentioned form.

If we book a cab in advance for you the cost is 60,000 TZS (approx USD 27) per car payable directly to the driver

Alternatively the information desks at the airport can help you with taxis, which can be hired at the front of the airport. Do ensure your cab is licensed and appears in reasonable working condition. Remember also to confirm the fare before you climb in the cab.

Do be aware that anyone offering to assist you with your bags at the airport will expect a tip. You can say no politely. Expected tips for assistance with bags are around 1,000 TZS. It is wise to have a small amount of change readily available.

At the end of your safari

Zanzibar to the Gorillas finishes in Kigali, Rwanda, usually by mid morning of the last day. We can drop you off at Discover Rwanda Youth Hostel in the quiet Kacyiru district of Kigali.

We can book extra accommodation for you if required at Discover Rwanda Youth Hostel.

Discover Rwanda Youth Hostel

Discover Rwanda Youth Hostel is a friendly and affordable hostel in the Kacyiru district near several embassies and high commissions, as well as banks, restaurants, clubs and good transport links.

Room rates include breakfast and are:

Dorm \$15 - 19

Standard Single \$30

Standard Single En-suite \$50

Standard Double room \$45

Double En-suite room \$60

48 hours cancellation applies.

Airport transfers can be arranged to the airport from Discover Rwanda Youth Hostel and are US\$17/car.

Upon booking you can let us know on the form previously mentioned your post-safari accommodation and transfer needs in Kigala.

Health and immunisation

[Back to Index](#)

Prior to departure it is essential that you contact a specialist travel medical clinic. Clinics such as one of Nomad's Clinics in the UK 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 that 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 that may be of interest called 'Healthy Travel Africa'.

You may also like to check out the following websites:

www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk

www.dh.gov.uk

Suggested travel clinics in the United Kingdom

Nomad Travel Stores and Clinics

Tel: 01341 555 061

- Wellington Terrace, 3 Turnpike Ln, Wood Green, London N8 0PX,
- Beatty House, 1 Admirals Way, Canary Wharf, London E14 9UF, UK
- 11 S Molton St, Mayfair, London W1K 5QP, UK
- 65 London Wall, London, EC2M 5TU
- 52 Grosvenor Gardens, London, SW1W 0AU

There are also Nomad clinics in Bath, Birmingham, 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 only a guide!)

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 x 1 a week

Doxycycline, taken x 1 a day
Malarone, taken x 1 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. When applying with sunblock, put it on top of 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.
- Always sleep under a mosquito net or in a secure tent with all zips zipped up.
- Cover up at the beginning and end of the day including wearing long-sleeves and long-legged lightweight clothing as well as socks.
- 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 in Lake Victoria. 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.

Safari itinerary

[Back to Index](#)

Day 1: Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

We meet up early evening at our camp by the Indian Ocean. We have a Pre- Departure Meeting to go through the details of travelling overland and life on an overland truck, as well as arrangements for our initial beach break on the beautiful Zanzibar Island. We relax and enjoy our first group meal together.

Distance: 0 kms
Est. Drive Time: 0 hours
Meals: X1 Dinner

Days 2 – 5: Stay on Zanzibar Island

Day 2

A ferry journey this morning takes us to the port of Stone Town, the ancient capital of Zanzibar Island.

Arriving in the early afternoon, we check into our simple local lodge within the traditional capital.

With its classic Swahili architecture of towers, courtyards and narrow alleys fronting onto shops, houses and mosques, the old town will capture your imagination. Mainly built of coral stone in the 19th century, the buildings have large verandahs with wooden balustrades and elegantly decorated balconies, and distinctly ornate wooden doors often decorated with brass studs. 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. City tours also offer more fascinating details about the old town which is a UNESCO World Heritage site.

As the day ends, enjoy sundowners at Africa House whilst watching the traditional dhows sail in the harbour against the sunset and wander the evening food markets for Zanzibar pizza and other seafood delicacies.

Distance: 0 kms

Est. Drive Time: 0 hours

Meals: X1 Breakfast

Days 3 – 5

Day three sees us heading to the beach for a three-night stay in beach cottages at Kendwa to the north west of the island. Here you can relax on the long white palm-fringed beaches, and snorkel and swim in the warm waters of the Indian Ocean. There are fun beach bars and beach volleyball.

There are also different excursions to enjoy.

An hour away from Stone Town you can take a walk in the Jozani Forest, home to the indigenous red colobus monkeys. The forest has a special elevated walkway through the mangroves.

Zanzibar also offers some of the best diving and snorkeling in Africa, and trips can be booked from the Dive Centre near our beach accommodation to nearby reefs or further afield. Amongst colourful corals, a variety of fish species can be seen as well as dolphins, huge rays and hammerhead sharks. Visit Prison Island with its giant Aldabra tortoise and snorkel in crystal clear coral waters. Mnemba Atoll is a boat ride away just off the north east coast, and has superb corals and gorgeous schools of reef fish. Turtles who breed on the island, and dolphins, can be seen with a little luck. Seasonal whale shark and humpback whales can be seen gliding past. Fishing trips can also be booked, and some areas offer kite surfing.

Everyone usually stays at our regular shared accommodation. Alternatively if you might like a room to yourself or a choice of alternative accommodation options including at other destinations on the island, feel free to talk to us as to options.

Distance: 0 kms

Est. Drive Time: 0 hours

Meals: X3 Breakfasts

Optional excursions: City tour, snorkelling, scuba diving, Mnemba Island, Turtle Sanctuary visit, Prison Island with a visit to the Aldabra tortoise, Jozani Forest to view the red colobus monkey

Days 6 – 7: Zanzibar Island to Arusha

We head back to Dar by ferry on day six before staying the night in the historical coastal town of Bagamoyo. Steeped in 18th century Swahili history, Bagamoyo was one of the most important settlements along the East African coast and the terminus of the trade caravan route linking Lake Tanganyika with the sea. Slaves, ivory, salt and copra were unloaded here before being shipped to Zanzibar Island and elsewhere.

Early the next morning, dawn sees us on the road north to travel through lush surroundings and beside the stunning Usambara mountain range as we make our way to the bustling town of Arusha. On a clear day it is sometimes possible to see the snow clad Mount Kilimanjaro. At 5,895 metres it is Africa's highest mountain.

Distance over two days: 665 kms
Est. Drive Time, Day 6: 2 hours
Est. Drive Time, Day 7: 11 - 12 hours incl. lunch stop
Meals: X2 Breakfasts, X2 Dinners

Day 8: Arusha to Simba Camp, Ngorongoro Crater

This morning we leave the shadow of Mount Meru and drive through Maasai towns and villages to reach the gate of the Ngorongoro Crater.

The Ngorongoro Crater is a large, unbroken volcanic caldera, formed 2-3 million years ago. It is home to the "Big 5" and a Noah's ark for wildlife including lion, leopard, elephant, rhino, buffalo, wildebeest, zebra, cheetah, hyena, jackal, warthog and more. We stop for photos at the Lookout on the edge of the Crater for a wide panoramic view over the area.

We then head down onto the Crater floor for our first intensive game drive in 4X4 landcruisers with open pop-up top roofs.

After our afternoon game drives we head back up to the Crater rim where the overland truck and camp waits. Our camp is up high tonight so we wrap up warm, as temperatures drop!

Distance: 195 kms
Est. Drive Time: 3 - 4 hours incl. photo stops
Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Dinner

Included wildlife activity: Afternoon game drive, Ngorongoro Crater
Vehicle for game drive: 4x4 land cruiser with pop up roof

Day 9: Simba Camp to Ngiri Camp, Central Serengeti

Travelling slow transit through the Ngorongoro Conservation Area we head towards the plains of the Serengeti. Ngorongoro Conservation Area is in northern Tanzania. It's home to "big 5" game (elephant, lion, leopard, buffalo, rhino). Huge herds of wildebeests and zebras traverse its plains during their annual migration. Livestock belonging to the semi-nomadic Maasai tribe graze alongside wild animals. Fossils found in the Olduvai Gorge date back millions of years.

Maasai villages can be seen dotted around the countryside, the homes of traditional nomadic pastoralists that can be seen tending their herds of goats and cattle as they have done for more than 500 years. The Maasai are easily spotted in their bright checked shukas which are worn wrapped over their body. We can stop off for a visit on our drive.

On leaving the mountainous Conservation area dropping to the open plains of the vast Serengeti, we enter at Naabi Gate for afternoon game drives on the overland truck.

We are now in a vast park of open plains, acacia-studded savanna with wooded hills and spectacular mountains. The truck is high with large windows and we have wonderful views across the plains.

Tonight we camp in the very centre of the park.

Distance: 161 kms
Est. Drive Time: 5 hours
Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Dinner

Included wildlife activities: Morning transit drive in Ngorongoro Conservation Area. Afternoon game drives, Serengeti National Park
Vehicle for game drives: Overland truck

Optional excursion: Maasai village visit

Day 10: Ngiri Camp to Bunda

A fresh start for more game drives with now practiced eyes scanning the vast grasslands. You can enjoy a dawn hot air balloon ride if you wish this morning for a birds-eye view of the wildlife below.

Serengeti is home to giraffe, buffalo, hartebeest, warthog, elephant, lion, cheetah, jackals, baboon,

waterbuck, and dik dik plus much more, and don't forget to check the trees for well camouflaged leopard. The park also has wonderful birdlife. Hippos laze in pools, occasionally exiting the water to show off their impressive size. This park is also famous as the stage for the great migration during which over a million wildebeest, zebra and gazelle move en masse in search of better grazing.

Driving right across the park we exit on the west side at Ikoma Gate, entering a smaller sub area of the Serengeti Conservation Area, known as the Grumeti Reserve, through which we transit on our way out. We arrive late in Bunda to camp at the base of the Balili Hills.

Distance: 160 kms

Est. Drive Time: 5 hours from Ikoma Gate incl. lunch stop

Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Dinner

Included wildlife activity: Morning game drives, Serengeti National Park

Vehicle for game drives: Overland truck

Optional excursions: Ballooning in the Serengeti, Hill walk

Days 11 - 12: Bunda to Mwanza, Lake Victoria

Our next campsite is by Lake Victoria. Look out for the boats of local fishermen, fishing for perch and tilapia, and the stunning rock formations on the waters edge.

The next day is a free day to relax by the lake and explore the old town of Mwanza.

Distance, Day 11: 156 kms

Est. Drive Time, Day 11: 3 - 4 hours

Meals: X2 Breakfasts, X2 Dinners

Day 13: Mwanza to Nyakanazi

Travelling further into rural Tanzania, we are well off the main tourist drag. We stay in a very simple local guesthouse. The local children often enjoy providing us with an informal tour around this small African town. Well away from Western luxuries, this is a chance to check out what life is like for local people away from the beaten tourist track. The "Mama" at the guesthouse cooks a local meal for us.

Distance: 275 kms

Est. Drive Time: 9 hours incl. ferry journey and lunch stop

Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Dinner

Days 14 - 15: Nyakanazi to Kigali, Rwanda

Crossing into Rwanda, our first stop is the capital, Kigali, which sits across several hills, Rwanda being known as "the Land of a Thousand hills".

We spend the next morning at The Genocide Memorial, a sobering and informative museum dedicated to the 1994 genocide as a place of remembrance. More than 250,000 victims of the Genocide are buried here. The rest of the day is free to explore Kigali city and perhaps visit some other memorial sites.

Distance, Day 14: 260 kms

Est. Drive Time, Day 14: +/- 10.5 hours (depending on the border) incl. lunch stop

Meals: X2 Breakfasts, X2 Dinners

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

Days 16 - 17: Kigali to Kisoro, Uganda

Heading off past tea plantations we are now on our way to camp in Musanze, near the Ugandan border, and the mountainous region which is home to the mountain gorillas. This campsite is set up as a community enterprise. Here you can try your hand at banana beer making and basket weaving – simple low key activities organized by local women to provide funds back to the local village. There is also time in the afternoon to do a cycling or walking tour as well as time to visit Musanze town and the Dian Fossey museum.

The following day there is the option to head off early 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 all then meet up later in the day having crossed into Uganda to stay for two nights in Kisoro in a simple local guesthouse where we are based while trekking the endangered mountain gorillas

Distance, Day 16: 115 kms

Est. Drive Time, Day 16: 3 hours

Distance, Day 17: 51 kms

Est. Drive Time, Day 17: 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 Batwa (Pygmy) village visit or Lake Mutande.

Notes: If you wish 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. For this excursion you will transfer late on day 17 after the Fossey trek to catch the group up in Kisoro ready for your gorilla trek on day 18.

Day 18: Kisoro, Uganda

Visiting the gorillas in their Afromontane forest home is magic and the trek on the volcanic slopes of the Virungas, at altitudes of up to 3,500 feet gorilla, is one of the trip's high points.

Only 8 people are permitted to visit each habituated gorilla family a day to limit contact with humans, and once found you have an hour to observe the gorillas in their natural habitat.

The gorillas are gentle herbivores, who are regularly found on the trek munching 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 and sensitive creatures, and in great danger of extinction. Against all odds conservationists have recently upgraded the mountain gorillas' conservation status from critically endangered to endangered thankfully. There is no cause to rest though as there are still only about 1,000 gorillas, all living in this small mountain area found in Rwanda, Uganda and the Congo.

In your free time whilst in Kisoro other options are available too to hike to see the golden monkeys in the lower sections of the forest, or there are local cultural tours to visit the indigenous Batwa or Pygmy or a coffee tour to find out about local coffee production.

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. Batwa (Pygmy) village visit or coffee tour. Lake Mutande.

Day 19: Kisoro, Uganda to Kigali, Rwanda

Today we say our farewells, heading back to the capital city and usually arriving around lunchtime.

Distance: 136 kms

Est. Drive Time: 5 hours (depending on the border)

Meals: X1 Breakfast

Please note safari itineraries are given as a guide only. A safari is a journey and true journeys in Africa unfold and are of an adventurous nature.. Feel free to give us a call about your safari plans. We look forward to your further enquiries.

Other information

[Back to Index](#)

Gorilla trekking

On your trip we travel to south-west Uganda to Kabale and from there to one of the gorilla parks to trek the

mountain gorillas. We book the gorilla permits for your safari ahead of time to visit either Rwanda's Parc National des Volcans, where Dian Fossey worked with the gorillas, or alternatively Bwindi National Park, depending on availability. Please note that trekking in Rwanda will incur an extra charge as permits there are more expensive.

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.

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.

Money and budgeting

[Back to Index](#)

What we cover from the price

The following highlights and game parks:-

- Zanzibar Island including Spice Tour, return ferry and transfers
- The Serengeti
- Ngorongoro Crater
- Gorilla Trekking Permit
- The Grumeti Game Reserve
- Lake Victoria
- Kigali - Genocide Memorial
- 11 nights camping, 4 nights hotel and 3 nights dorm accommodation in a lodge or similar
- 18 breakfasts, 12 dinners

The price also covers:

- Your overland journey from Dar es Salaam to Kigali on a fully equipped and dieselled 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

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- Flights including taxes
- Optional excursions as listed
- Pre and post tour accommodation as well as airport transfers
- Lunch and drinks throughout except where detailed in the inclusions
- Dinner whilst on Zanzibar Island
- 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

When costing an overland safari the areas you need to consider are:

Before you go...

1. Your tour price
2. Your airfare
3. Immunisation and anti-malarials
4. Insurance
5. Equipment

Step off the plane in Africa with...

6. Spending money - This is very individual and often depends on how much you drink, shop and wish to upgrade. A suggested budget would be 300 - 400 USD.
7. Optional excursions – A traveller wanting to do a good variety of options available will typically spend between 100 - 250 USD.
8. Visas: 100 - 200 USD depending on nationality.

Purchasing visas in Africa in US dollars for the above passports is currently cheaper than buying ahead of time.

9. Pre and post safari costs

Please note: You need to carry money with you out to Africa to cover Items 6 to 9 (i.e. for your spending money, 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 money for this trip as follows:

USD cash

We are finding that clients find it most convenient to take approximately 400 - 600 USD cash on this trip. This includes money for your visas as well as excursions on Zanzibar Island and Kisoro. Notes need to be dated 2008 or later.

Remember you will need USD for your Tanzanian visa when you land at the airport in Dar es Salaam.

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 used 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 Dar, you should change up next just enough money into Tanzania shillings to cover your taxi to the campsite as well as incidentals such as drinks and wifi. We recommend changing up about 50 USD at Dar airport.

Your crew will let you know where best to change up when you get to Stone Town on Zanzibar Island. Cash is carried at your own discretion and should be organised before you leave for Tanzania.

ATM access and Paying by Card

Note that it will be possible to access ATMs en route if you have a debit (Maestro) card or credit card (Visa and master card)

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 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.

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

Remember to budget for and carry what you need for before and after the safari on top of the above budget.

Your crew will let you know where is best to change up into local currency. It is best not to organise any local currencies prior to arriving. It is very easy to change up on arrival in Dar es Salaam.

For your information the currencies you will meet are:

- Tanzania - Tanzanian shillings
- Rwanda – Rwandan Francs
- Uganda - Uganda shillings

Your crew can advise 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.

Personal spending money

The amount you might need for spending money is quite individual and variations in budgets depend largely on how much you spend on souvenirs and drink, and those meals that are not covered particularly dinner on Zanzibar Island.

You may also need to spend on personal costs such as email, toiletries etc.

Particularly for lunch we encourage you to get out independently to mix with the local community, shop in the markets or try a local cafe. This allows you to do your own thing for lunch. In the towns and villages en route when we stop for lunch, you may find local vendors actually come to you – items such as samosas, fruit, nuts, boiled eggs – all brought to the side of the truck by street vendors. You might not even have to leave your seat! Try a local favourite too- the chip omelette! Drinks are cold and plentiful.

We find that you are wise to allow approximately 300 - 400 USD for personal spending money for this tour. Allow an extra 20 - 40 USD approximately if you think you may wish to upgrade those times you can at a few of the 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, to name just a few. Regularly 'smallish' optional activities costing under 20 USD also arise and these also will be covered by spending money. This figure is a regularly updated weekly average that has been provided by crew and recent clients.

Some spend more, and some spend less.

Tippling: You may like to consider tips for good service, particularly for the guides for the gorilla trek. You may find that you may like to organise this 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 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, and so is not always so obvious. 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. These excursions are run by local operators on the ground. They are not run by Absolute Africa.

Please contact us if you would like further information about any of these activities or excursions. 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 February 2022).

TANZANIA

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 20 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	20 USD
Sunset cruise	30 USD
Prison Island Entry and transport (depending on numbers)	from \$25 - \$35
Jozani Forest – to visit the red colobus monkeys	
From Stone Town (depending on numbers)	from \$30 - \$120
From North	from \$40 - \$160

Serengeti

Maasai village	10 USD
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RWANDA

Genocide Memorial audio guide	25 USD
Dian Fossey's grave	80 USD
Transport to Dian Fossey's grave	100 USD/vehicle
Banana beer making	35 USD
Basket weaving	10 USD

UGANDA

At the Gorillas

Suggested tip for your gorilla guide	10 USD
Golden monkeys entrance	90 USD
Transport to Golden Monkeys	50 USD/vehicle
Orphanage visit	10 USD
Batwa village visit - visiting a tribe in their relocated village, inc. transport, minimum number 3 people	35 USD
Sunset canoe trekking – Lake Mutanda	10 USD
Coffee tour	35 USD

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. Please note 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. They can be taken as a reasonable guide only.

Lunch on the road, as well as drinks, souvenirs and your evening meals on Zanzibar are 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.

If you choose not to do an optional activity, do bear in mind that this is your chance to catch up on washing and 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, 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.

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 further assistance in regard to your budget please do not hesitate to get in touch with us.

What do I need to bring?

[Back to Index](#)

We ask that you carry your possessions in one large backpack, 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 a few days at a time particularly if you wish to use it for the Zanzibar trip. You should carry your valuables in a flat money belt, which you wear against your skin.

Do remember traveling 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 and spending money
- Credit card - preferably Visa

Other items to consider

- Photocopies of main documents (keep separately)

Essential camping equipment

- Sleeping bag and inner 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 1 bottle
- Insect repellent spray
- High-factor sunblock cream
- Sun block cream
- 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

- Pocketknife
- 1 litre water container. Make sure it screws tight.
- Ziploc 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 day-to-day driving on the truck

- Cigarette lighter
- Concentrated travel washing liquid or washing powder, clothesline
- Emergency sewing kit
- Tweezers, nail scissors, nail brush

You may find it worthwhile to pick up a cheap blanket once you arrive if you are feeling the cold particularly when we are at altitude and from May to August which are the cooler months.

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 so carry what you need if possible.

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

Consider bringing:

- Binoculars
- Pillow
- Wet Ones can be useful
- Books
- Writing paper, pens

Electrical items

- Mobile phone
There is reasonable mobile coverage on some of this route and 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
- iPod/iPhone/MP3/Music player including earphones if you want to listen to your own music
Please note it is also possible to use your iPod as a hard drive to store photos – check the memory before travelling to ensure you have enough space to store all the photos you may wish to take.
- 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.
- 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.

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, 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 washing and cleaning 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. Your truck will also usually have a small notice board 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.

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. This is a 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. On drive days we plan for opportunities to mix with the local community. These are times you also can shop for ongoing personal needs such as drinks, snacks, phone cards etc. 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. 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 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 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 reserve the right for safety and other essential reasons to change itinerary, vehicles and or crew on a safari at any time.

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

Camping

We supply large, durable three-person tents complete with ground sheet and separate waterproof flysheet, ideal for Africa's varied conditions. They also have mossy 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.

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 usually have working flush toilets. Be aware though that shower water pressure is often very weak. Please do not come on your African adventure camping safari expecting pristine bathroom facilities.

You will find we may also camp in the bush once or twice during this trip under the African night sky. Your truck is well equipped for these opportunities but be prepared to 'rough it' 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 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 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.

Specialist 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

Perhaps the two most important factors to always bear in mind when traveling in Africa are to be constantly vigilant as to your own as well as 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.

Once you join the truck, valuables can be locked safely away in a safety deposit box, which is kept hidden within the vehicle.

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 traveling 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

Please remember we are all 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 bring along with you. 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 and every member in your group. The trips are about group participation and each member of the group needs to do all he or she can to enable the 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 on tour. We need to show respect to the places we visit and the people we meet en route. Poor behaviour embarrasses other members of the group and can seriously upset those around us, particularly in campsites and restaurants. Be responsive, discrete and sensitive to the world around you and you will get more out of your trip.

A reminder as well to 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 alcohol is not to be drunk on the trucks.

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

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

Game parks are a spectacular sight. Please be considerate 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.

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

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.

Keeping in touch

It can be quite difficult and also expensive staying in touch whilst you are traveling in Africa. Please let your family and friends 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 office and we will do all we can to assist.

Email – There is very limited access to email on this route where it is available be aware internet speed is quite often very slow.

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 traveling 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 office should be contacted for further advice.

Language

English is understood in most East African Countries. Learning some Swahili 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/migration.lasso

For information on where you should be able to see which animal, as well as other useful facts, check out the chart on the following 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	Reintroduced	Reintroduced	Reintroduced	Reintroduced	Reintroduced	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	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
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	group	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	pod/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

Reading List

[Back to Index](#)

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
French Lessons in West Africa	Peter Biddlescombe
Cry the Beloved Country	Alan Paton
The Weather in Africa	Martha Gellhorn
The Last King of Scotland	Giles Foden
Zanzibar	Giles Foden
Mukiwa – A white Boy in Africa	Peter Godwin
I Dreamed of Africa	Kuki Gallman
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	Wilbur Smith
A Sunday at the Pool in Kigali	Gil Courtemanche
Out of Shadows	Jason Wallace
Africa on a Shoestring	Geoff Crowther
Healthy Travel Africa	Isabelle Young, Lonely Planet Publications 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

9th February 2022