Day 1: Kigali, Rwanda, to Kisoro, Uganda
Meeting up at 7 am on our first day, we head from Kigali, the capital of Rwanda, to the Ugandan border. We arrive in Kisoro to check into a simple guesthouse, our base for the next two nights.

Meeting the rest of the group, you can head out on a coffee tour or visit a Batwa (Pygmy) village to start to soak up the local world around you and get to know others in your group. Some enjoy visiting Lake Mutunde later in the day.

Alternatively enjoy having a look around this rural Ugandan town, enjoy a coffee in the coffee shop, or a beer in a local pub. Late in the afternoon we hold a group departure meeting and also go through arrangements for those trekking the gorillas the following day. Pygmy dancers entertain us over dinner one night during our stay in Kisoro.

Distance: 136 kms
Est. Drive Time: 5 hours (depending on the border)
Meal: x1 Dinner

Optional excursions: Coffee tour or Batwa (Pygmy) village visit or Lake Mutunde.

Days 2 - 3: Kisoro to Musanze, Rwanda
Over these days we gorilla trek. The gorilla trek is our first big highlight.

The critically endangered mountain gorilla population currently numbers around 1000 individuals. The gorillas are found in two forested areas—Bwindi Impenetrable Forest in Uganda and the Virungas, which stretch from Rwanda and Uganda into the Congo.

Our trek starts early morning, and can take anything from an hour to many hours depending on where the guides locate the gorillas. When found, they are usually on the ground munching away. They keep in family groups of up to 35 individuals led by one dominant, older adult male, a silverback, named after the swath of silver hair that adorns his otherwise dark fur. The family structure of a gorilla group often also includes several other young males, known as black backs, as well as females and their offspring. The young ones particularly might be seen swinging from vines and trees and can be very curious as to their daily visitors.

For those not trekking you might enjoy a village visit to the Batwa (Pygmy) or a coffee tour to find out how coffee is produced. Trekking the golden monkeys in Mgahinga National Park is another option. A visit to the grave of Dian Fossey can also be arranged in the Rwandan park usually on day 3. Dian Fossey, immortalized on the silver screen by Sigourney Weaver, was a fierce campaigner for the conservation of the mountain gorillas.

Usually we spend the evening of night 3 in Musanze, Rwanda. Here we have the chance to learn how to make banana beer and do basket weaving.

Distance, Day 2: 0 kms
Est. Drive Time, Day 2: 0
Distance, Day 3: 51 kms
Est. Drive Time, Day 3: 2.5 hours (depending on the border)
Meals: x2 Breakfasts, x2 Dinners


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 you will transfer ahead to Musanze late in the afternoon of Day 2, to commence your trek early morning Day 3.

Day 4: Musanze to Kigali
Heading to Kigali we visit The Genocide Memorial and Museum. Opened in 2004, ten years after the Genocide, the memorial is a sobering reminder of the horrors that occurred over a 100 day period from April to June 1994 during which up to 1 million Tutsis and moderate Hutu were brutally slaughtered.

We spend two to three hours at the museum before heading to camp here in the capital.

Distance: 115 kms
Est Drive Times: 3 hours
Meals: x1 Breakfast, x1 Dinner

Optional excursions: Basket weaving. Banana beer making, Genocide Memorial and Museum.
Day 5: Kigali, Rwanda to Nyakanazi, Tanzania

Today we are on the winding road out of Rwanda, heading south east via Rusomo Falls into remote rural Tanzania.

We stay tonight in a small local guest house across the border. The local children show us around this country village and the guest house owner’s wife cooks us a simple traditional local meal.

Distance: 260 kms
Est. Drive Time: +/- 10.5 hours (depending on the border)
Meals: 1 Breakfast, 1 Dinner

Day 6: Nyakanazi to Mwanza

Today’s travels through rural Tanzania bring us to Lake Victoria and a ferry crossing to Mwanza, Tanzania’s second largest city. Surrounded by hills with picturesque large boulders, the city is set beside the lake.

Distance: 275 kms
Est. Drive Time: 9 hours
Meals: 1 Breakfast, 1 Dinner

Day 7: Mwanza to Bunda

We leave Mwanza to travel to Bunda where we relax before starting on our game drives in Tanzania’s world famous northern game parks. We enter the Grumeti which is part of this ecosystem and our first taste of this wonderful place.

Transiting through Grumeti brings us to the Serengeti, quite simply one of the best wildlife sanctuaries on the planet. Here we start our game drives into an expanse of vast vistas, a world of rolling savannah plains of the Serengeti National Park, The park varies from open grass plains, savanna with scattered acacia, and wooded grasslands to extensive woodlands and clay plains. The Serengeti grass plains dominate the southern half of the park. The rich volcanic soil here nourishes the grasslands which attract the migratory herds. The wildebeest follow the seasonal rains and head south each year, settling on the Serengeti Plains anytime from late November onwards, having spent the dry season in the Mara and the wetter northern woodlands of the Serengeti.

The herds regularly calve here from late December through to February. More than a million wildebeest, hundreds of thousands of plains zebras, and thousands of Thomson’s gazelles can be found across the grasslands when the migration is in residence. Large predators including lions, cheetahs, and hyenas are drawn to the area also by this abundance of prey. The large rivers in the park, whilst dry for most of the year, flow and flood during the wet seasons in December, then from March to May. Even during the dry season though, the water table is higher along the rivers and because these areas have more water, a dense riverine forest of evergreen trees grow here, and create a special habitat for other plants, insects, birds and animals.

Distance to Ikoma, Serengeti: 156 kms
Est. Drive Time: 5 hours to Ikoma Gate incl. slow transit through Grumeti. Game drives through the afternoon
Meals: 1 Breakfast, 1 Dinner

Included wildlife activity: Afternoon game drive, the Serengeti

Day 9: Ngiri, Serengeti to Ngorongoro Crater, Simba Camp

We are up early this morning for further game drives in the Serengeti before traveling around lunchtime into the famous Ngorongoro Conservation Area, another wildlife paradise beside the Serengeti. Some too take the opportunity to balloon very early to float silently over the ancient plains.

The sweeping landscapes of the Great Rift Valley will continue to impress today as we head up to the Crater rim. With the Serengeti, the Ngorongoro is designated a World Heritage Site and Biosphere Reserve due to the biodiversity and range of animals represented across this eco-system.

The Maasai live throughout this region. We stop over to visit a Maasai village and school en route to enjoy some traditional dancing, the Maasai warriors being famous for their leaping movements, which are part of a mesmerizing sequence of movements and song designed to work the group into a state of trance.

We enjoy an evening meal and overnight camp on the Crater rim beneath a blanket of stars for our last night in the bush.

Distance: 161 kms
Est. Drive Time: 5 hours
Meals: 1 Breakfast, 1 Dinner

Included wildlife activity: Morning and afternoon game drives, in the Serengeti and Conservation Area

Optional excursions: Balloon safari, visit to a Maasai Boma, Olduvai Gorge Museum depending on road conditions. Please note if you wish to visit Olduvai Museum you must let the office know prior to the tour departure.

Day 10: Ngorongoro Crater to Arusha

Early morning we descend 2,000 feet into the Ngorongoro Crater, the world’s largest extinct volcano. Ngorongoro Crater is a park that never disappoints. Travelling in customised land cruisers with a local guide we can find rhino, hippo, lion, elephant, hyena, buffalo, zebra, impala, wildebeest, cheetah, monkey, ostrich and, depending on the season, flamingo, feeding in Lake Magadi.

After our morning game drives we travel to the busy town of Karatu where we pick up lunch, and then on to Arusha and civilisation, to hot showers, as well as supermarkets! There is usually time for some market shopping for items such as Tinga Tinga paintings, beaded jewellery, carvings and other local crafts on the way.

We have a fun barbecue at camp tonight.

Distance: 195 kms
Est. Drive Time: 3 - 4 hours
Meals: 1 Breakfast, 1 Dinner

Included wildlife activity: Morning game drives, Ngorongoro Crater
Days 11 – 12: Arusha to Dar es Salaam
We are on the road to Dar es Salaam and the Tanzanian coast. Passing Kilimanjaro on the way, with a little luck we glimpse Africa’s highest mountain. The scenery again changes and becomes increasingly lush. Our drives takes us through small towns and villages before we park up under palm trees by the Indian Ocean in Dar, known as the ‘House of Peace’.

Distance over 2 days: 665 kms
Est. Drive Time, Day 11: 8 hours,
Est. Drive Time, Day 12: 9 - 10 hours
Meals: X2 Breakfasts, X2 Dinners

Days 13 – 17: Optional stay on Zanzibar Island - regular arrangements
There are choices as to how to spend your last few days on tour which are set aside for a beach break on the barefoot paradise of Zanzibar Island, the magical Unguja.

Day 13 most elect for our regular arrangements to travel to Zanzibar by ferry with the tour leader.

We arrive early afternoon to the port city of Stone Town, which dominates the west coast of the island. We can wander the winding passageways of the old city, browse in the bazaars, sip fruit cocktails as the dhows sail into the harbour at sunset and enjoy the evening in the food markets. A spice tour is also arranged to introduce you to some of the island’s fascinating history.

Meal: Day 13, Breakfast

In the morning of Day 14 the time is yours totally. A snorkeling trip to Prison Island to view giant tortoise can be arranged or head to the southeast coast to visit the mangrove walkway at Jozani Forest, home to Zanzibar’s rare red colobus monkeys as well as a number of other primate and small antelope species.

Otherwise head straight to the beach at Kendwa and relax. Zanzibar’s coastline offers superb white, palm-fringed beaches. Out from our beach cottages, we can swim in warm waters, much less susceptible to the tides than on the east side. The smooth beaches and white sand make for dazzling days in the sun.

Days 15 -16: Two more days by the beach! A trip can also be arranged to swim with the turtles at Nungwi or a days snorkeling at Mnemba Atoll. Here on the east side waves break over coral reefs and sand bars just offshore. At low tide small pools of starfish, small minnows, and anemones can be found. Mnemba Atoll itself is a popular scuba diving site with a wide variety of corals and associated species. It consists of an oval reef seven by four kilometres in extent and containing the tiny uninhabited Mnemba Island. Here we can also at times sight larger species such as turtles and dolphins.

The spice island of Zanzibar is a destination of rich culture and history and an idyllic tropical paradise of white sand beaches, azure waters and colourful coral reefs of tropical fish, a perfect place to finish your safari.

Day 17 is our last day, with the tour leader heading back to Dar on the lunchtime ferry. You can fly off Zanzibar Island itself or catch the ferry back with the tour leader if you wish.

Extra accommodation can be arranged for those who would like more time on Zanzibar Island.

Further details as to arrangements for your optional time on Zanzibar Island
For the optional Zanzibar stay, we make core arrangements well ahead of time so we are assured our groups are comfortable in popular and affordable beach accommodation to the north west of the island at Kendwa Beach, and for a night in an affordable traditional lodge in the capital. If you might like to extend your stay at the end and/or look at some different options as well we can alternatively book budget accommodation to the south at Paje, as well as other more boutique and deluxe accommodation across the island including in Nungwi and Stone Town. Check with us if you would like more information as to the arrangements on Zanzibar.

Excursions on the island: Zanzibar offers some of the best diving and snorkeling in Africa. Amongst colourful corals, a variety of fish species can be seen as well as dolphins, turtles, huge rays and hammerhead sharks. Humpback whales and whale sharks are occasionally spotted. More than 350 fish species have been recorded in the waters off Zanzibar. Different snorkeling and diving trips can be booked including to Prison Island with its giant Aldabra tortoises, or to Mnemba Atoll. Scuba diving and snorkeling can be arranged from the dive centres near our beach accommodation as well as fishing trips.

Apart from water sports, city tours around Stone Town, and excursions to Jozani Forest to see the indigenous red colobus monkeys, as well as a turtle sanctuary can be arranged. The island also has great kite surfing, and some superb restaurants and markets. Zanzibar is a perfect destination to finish your adventure trip. Let us know if you would like more information.

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. The unexpected can arise, so do allow for this. Feel free to give us a call about your travel plans. We look forward to your further enquiries.

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