

Maasai & Migration

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 for Maasai and Migration

Depart Nairobi	Finish Dar es Salaam	Price
14* Mar 2020	24 Mar 2020	£1,320
04 May 2020	14 May 2020	£1,320
10* Jun 2020	20 Jun 2020	£1,320
05* Jul 2020	15 Jul 2020	£1,320
18* Jul 2020	28 Jul 2020	£1,320
17* Aug 2020	27 Aug 2020	£1,320
07* Sep 2020	17 Sep 2020	£1,320
14* Oct 2020	24 Oct 2020	£1,320
08* Nov 2020	18 Nov 2020	£1,320
21* Dec 2020	31 Dec 2020	£1,320
28* Dec 2020	07 Jan 2021	£1,320
03* Jan 2021	13 Jan 2021	£1,320
11* Jan 2021	21 Jan 2021	£1,320
17* Feb 2021	27 Feb 2021	£1,320
21 Mar 2021	31 Mar 2021	£1,320
24 May 2021	03 Jun 2021	£1,320
23* Jun 2021	03 Jul 2021	£1,320
18* Jul 2021	28 Jul 2021	£1,320
04* Aug 2021	14 Aug 2021	£1,320
20* Aug 2021	30 Aug 2021	£1,320
28* Aug 2021	07 Sep 2021	£1,320

*Add On Safari in the Masai Mara available. Please note this is a 6 day add-on and departs 6 days before the main tour departure date.

Countries visited: Kenya • Tanzania

Highlights: Serengeti National Park • Ngorongoro Crater • Maasai boma • Kilimanjaro • Zanzibar Island • Spice tour • Snorkelling and scuba diving • Mnemba Atoll • Prison Island and the giant tortoise • Dolphin boat cruise • Red colobus monkey trek.

Safari structure: The Maasai and Migration safari commences in Nairobi, the capital of Kenya. It travels south to visit the highlights of Tanzania, the magical Zanzibar Island and the world famous Serengeti National Park and Ngorongoro Crater. The Crater offers spectacular game viewing all year round and the Serengeti has resident wildlife including elephant, giraffe, rhino, topi, impala, buffalo, Grant's gazelle, buffalo, warthog, waterbuck, hippo, hartebeest and roan antelope throughout the year. From late November the large migratory herds of zebra, Thomson's gazelle and wildebeest also push into the Serengeti on their seasonal migration heading for the fertile plains. The "big cats" always closely follow the herds.

This is also the region where the famous Maasai tribes live who still proudly retain many aspects of their traditional lifestyle. The Maasai can be seen throughout the region.

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Flights

When arranging your flights we suggest that you arrive the day before your safari begins, as we can depart as early as 7am on the day of departure.

You will find it most convenient at the end of your safari to fly either from Dar es Salaam or from Zanzibar Island. There is an international airport on Zanzibar island. Return flights should be arranged to depart from Zanzibar airport any time from 11am the day after the trip ends, or from Dar es Salaam from 4pm the day after the trip ends.

Return flights should be arranged to depart from Zanzibar airport any time from mid afternoon of the final day, or from Dar es Salaam after 8pm on the final day.

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

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

There are several airlines that fly into Nairobi and out of Dar es Salaam including Kenya Airways, KLM/Air France, Lufthansa, Qatar Airways, Emirates, Swiss Airlines and Ethiopian Airways. A number of airlines also fly between Zanzibar and Nairobi or Dar es Salaam, such as Precision Air, Kenya Airways, KLM, and Fly540.

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

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

Insurance

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

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

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

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

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

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

Visa requirements for Maasai and Migration

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Your passport needs to be valid for at least 6 months after your trip finishes. Ensure also that you have adequate pages in your passport for each country you visit. As a guide then, for the Maasai and Migration you will want to have a minimum of 4 blank pages (sides).

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

Visas for most passport holders including British, Australian, New Zealand, Irish, South African, German, French, Dutch, Canadian and American passport holders can be arranged in Africa en route. This includes the Kenyan visa which, for most passport holders, can be easily arranged upon arrival in Nairobi's Jomo Kenyatta International Airport. We advise purchasing a transit visa on arrival in Kenya for U\$20 and the Tanzanian visa is then U\$50 for most passport holders except American and Irish for whom it is U\$100.

Visas can only be paid for in US Dollars cash.

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

Passport	Kenya	Tanzania	No of Visas	Total Value US\$
Australian	\$20	\$50	2	\$70
New Zealand	\$20	\$50	2	\$70
South African	-	-	0	\$ 0
Canadian	\$20	\$50	2	\$70
American	\$20	\$100	2	\$120
British	\$20	\$50	2	\$70
German	\$20	\$50	2	\$70
Dutch	\$20	\$50	2	\$70
Irish	\$20	\$100	2	\$120
French	\$20	\$50	2	\$70

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

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

Pre and post safari information

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Joining in Nairobi

The safari departs from both the Heron Portico Hotel at 7.30am and Wildebeest Eco Camp at 8am on the departure date.

We can reserve accommodation for you prior to departure in Nairobi at the Heron Portico Hotel, Jakaya Kikwete Road or Wildebeest Eco Camp, Mokoyeti Road West which is about an hour from the Heron Hotel, depending on traffic.

Accommodation options

THE HERON PORTICO HOTEL

Rooms are en suite and room service is available. There is an e-mail cafe as well as a swimming pool and a restaurant. The restaurant is open from 7.00 am for breakfast. There are also individual electronic safety deposit boxes in every room and this is inclusive of the accommodation.

Prices for the Heron Portico Hotel are

110 USD for a single en-suite room including breakfast (10,995 Kenyan shillings - KSH))
135 USD for a double en suite room or twin share en suite room including breakfast. (13,495 KSH)

Airport transfers can be arranged to the Heron Portico Hotel . Prices are:

US\$25 (2,500 KSH) for 1 person
US\$17 (1,750 KSH) for 2 people
US\$15 (1,500 KSH) for 3 people or more

The Heron is payable on arrival in Kenyan Shillings or by credit card (Visa and MasterCard)

Cancellation penalties apply for 'no show' unless 24 hours notice is given. If your arrival in Nairobi is delayed, please ensure you contact the Absolute office or the Heron Hotel in Nairobi.

Alternatively Wildebeest Camp offers slightly cheaper accommodation.

WILDEBEEST ECO CAMP

Wildebeest is a permanent-tented camp with dorms, budget rooms and safari tents including en-suite, based in peaceful gardens. Prices include a simple breakfast.

Wildebeest is payable in Kenyan Shillings, Euros, USD, GBP and credit card. Credit card payments attract a 5% charge.

The camp has a restaurant, bar, internet, and lockers in the dorms. Breakfast is served from 07:00am. The showers are usually hot.

Prices for the Wildebeest Camp are:

Dorm	27 USD (2,700 KSH)
Single Garden Tent	43 USD (4,250 KSH)
Double Garden Tent	65 USD (6,500 KSH)
Single Cottage Room	65 USD (6,500 KSH)
Double Cottage Room	90 USD (9,000 KSH)
Single En-suite Tent	80 USD (8,000 KSH)
Double En-suite Garden Tent	100 USD (10,000 KSH)

All prices include breakfast.

Airport transfers can also be arranged to the Wildebeest Campsite payable in KSH. Prices are:

US\$20 (2,000 KSH) for 1 person
US\$15 (1,500 KSH) pp for 2 people

If your arrival in Nairobi is delayed please ensure you contact the Absolute office or the Wildebeest campsite in Nairobi.

Wildebeest campsite require 30 days notice to cancel a booking. All bookings cancelled within one month of arrival will be subject to a 100% cancellation fee.

Please note that all prices quoted in £'s are an approximation. Prices can vary dependant on the foreign exchange rate of the day.

Day trips in Nairobi

If you wish we can arrange tours to take in some of the sights of Nairobi.

Nairobi Excursion

Our first day trip visits the Sheldrick's Elephant Orphanage and the Giraffe Park, to see some of the fantastic work being done for animal welfare on conservation in Kenya. Price: from £28/person

Nairobi National Park

We can arrange a half-day visit to Nairobi National Park, which is the oldest park in Kenya. Lion, gazelle, oryx, zebra, giraffe, buffalo, cheetah and leopard are seen regularly, as well as rhino. Price: On request

Other options to consider before your safari

Add on Safari to the Masai Mara

The Mara is the seventh greatest wonder of the world, home to thousands of animals such as elephant, giraffe, lion, leopard, rhino and hippo as well as hosting the migration of wildebeest, zebra and gazelle on an annual basis, on their journey from the Serengeti.

We regularly run Add On safaris to visit the Mara before most departure dates of the Maasai and Migration. Just arrive in Nairobi ready to depart for the Mara six

days earlier for Maasai and Migration departures. Please note the pre tour departs 6 days before the main tour departure date.

Price £795 including the Masai Mara (2 days) a visit to the Elephant Orphanage and the Giraffe Park, Lake Naivasha, a hippo cruise and a visit to the Maasai at Loita Hills plus camping (x6 nights), x6 breakfasts and x6 dinners.

Climb Kilimanjaro

Arrive 7-9 days before to climb to the “roof of Africa”, Kilimanjaro. A range of trekking routes are available. For further details contact us or visit <http://www.absoluteafrica.com/Climb-Kilimanjaro-with-Absolute-Africa>

Please note, if climbing Kilimanjaro before starting the Maasai and Migration, we can arrange to meet you in Arusha, Tanzania, on day one, in the afternoon. This will save you having to double back to meet us in Nairobi. The first day of the trip is a drive day from Nairobi to our campsite in Arusha, which is a one and a half hour drive from Moshi, where you will finish your climb. If you are climbing Kilimanjaro, meeting us late afternoon on day one is usually the simplest and preferred option.

Beach Stays on the Kenyan Coast

Arrive a few days early to unwind on the white beaches of the Kenyan coast. Prices from U\$22 pppn in stays in simple beach tree huts. Please contact us for further details.

Departing Nairobi

On the departure date we will collect you from either from the Heron Portico Hotel, Nairobi, at 7.30 am or Wildebeest Eco Camp at 8.00 am, depending on your location. We spend our first day travelling south from Nairobi into Tanzania, setting up camp in Arusha, which will be our base from where we will safari into the world-famous Ngorongoro Crater and Serengeti.

The crew will organise a meeting on 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. 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 Nairobi

Do be aware that Nairobi is known as ‘Nairobbery’. 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. Mobile phones should be inconspicuous. Do not leave anything of value lying around on display in your room at the hotel. Take great care in Milimani Road and do not walk on the streets at night.

Eating out in Nairobi prior to departure

The restaurant at the Heron is excellent. If you feel like an alternative though you might also like to visit the Pan Afric Hotel just down the road, which has a popular terrace cafe overlooking the street. We advise you to catch a cab to the Pan Afric, particularly if eating there at night. The cab should cost approximately 300 - 400 KSH.

You may also consider visiting Nairobi's famous game restaurant, Carnivores, which is a popular option and a Nairobi highlight. Taxis can be arranged here.

Important pre-safari details

Upon booking we will e-mail you a form, on which you can advise us of all your booking requirements in Nairobi. 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.

Whilst staying at the Heron or Wildebeest, remember to check for last-minute messages in the foyer or reception area from your crew. Do protect your valuables at all times.

In the event of any last-minute delays or problems there are emergency contact numbers for the Absolute Office on your Booking Voucher. This is issued upon receipt of your final payment. For out of hours service in an emergency, for example if you need to rearrange a taxi and accommodation, please use these contact details and NOT the main Absolute Africa phone number.

Flight departure

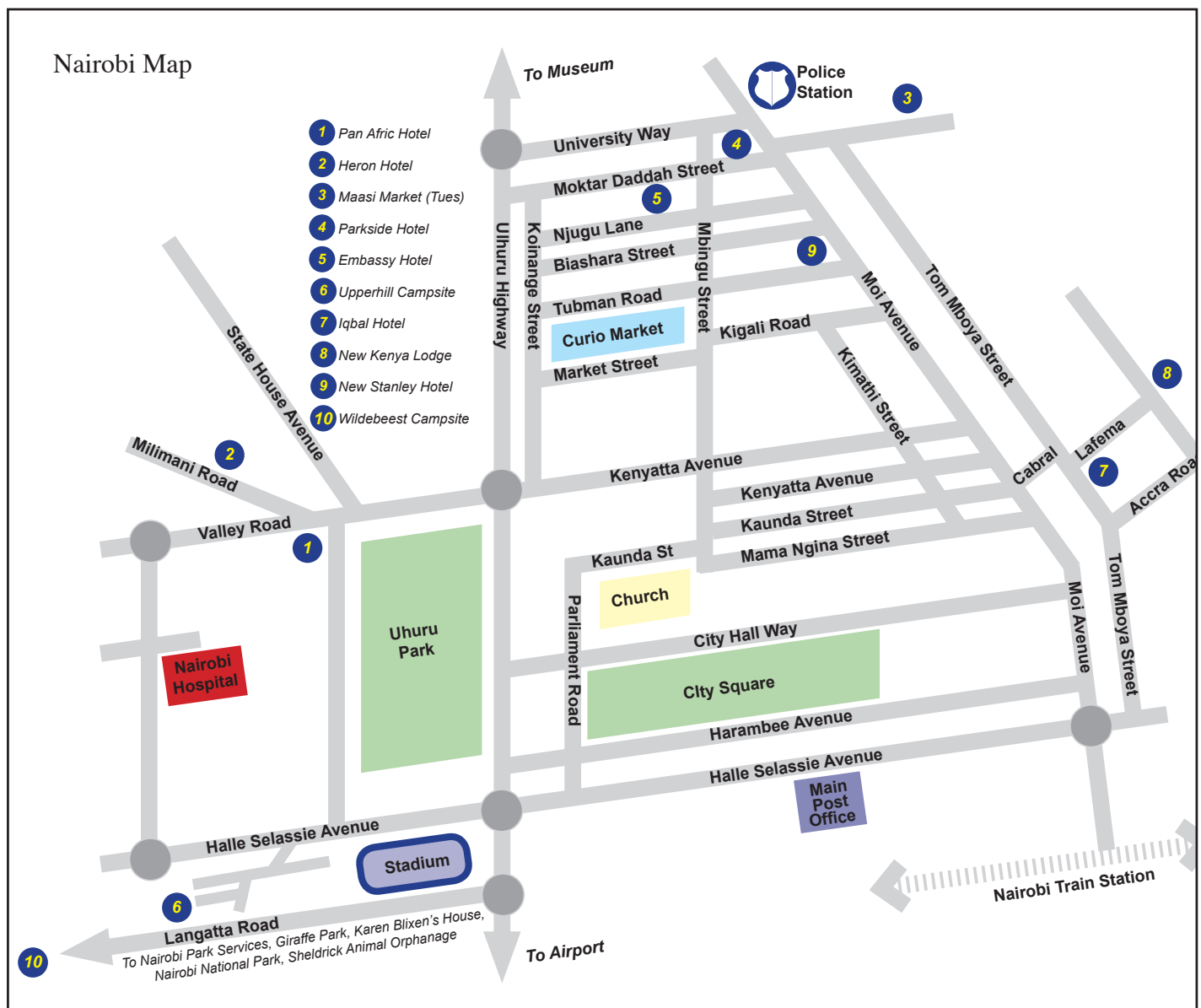
Check in as early as possible prior to your departure time: your flight ticket will indicate how early you should check in. When checking in you may need to show your Booking Voucher to demonstrate that you will be leaving Kenya on safari. Please remember to carry this with your personal documents. A booking voucher is issued upon receipt of final payment. It also has emergency contact details in the event you require assistance in transit.

Arriving in Kenya – Jomo Kenyatta International Airport, Nairobi

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 Kenyan 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, including breakfast for the morning of the departure, as well as your accommodation and transfers prior to departure.

NB: For rough budgeting/banking purposes, in Kenya the exchange rate is currently 1US\$ =101 KSH (March 2020)



Travelling into Nairobi: The airport is situated 15 km from the centre of Nairobi. The easiest way to get into town and to the Heron or Wildebeest is to use a taxi. For your own personal safety and security, do not get the local bus into town.

If you would like the Office 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 approx 1,750 KSH (approx USD 18) per person if 2 people or

more payable with your hotel bill to the Heron, or 2,000 KSH (approx USD 20) per person to the Wildebeest. This is payable whether you use the taxi or not.

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. A cab to the Heron from the airport should be approximately 1,500 KSH (approx USD 15); a cab to Wildebeest will cost slightly more.

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 100 KSH. It is wise to have a small amount of change readily available.

The end of the safari

You can finish this tour either on Zanzibar or Dar es Salaam depending on what suits you best.

Please note accommodation on the final night of the tour is included and so you should arrange flights for the day after the trip ends. Many tend to catch the ferry back to Dar es Salaam with the tour leader in the morning after the last day, but we can also arrange the ferry for a later time and/or date if you wish, as well as provide you with assistance with transfers and further accommodation if you would like. If catching the morning ferry, please do not arrange onwards flights from Dar es Salaam until after 4pm.

There is an international airport on Zanzibar and you can also fly out directly from Zanzibar at any time on the last day, or later if you wish to stay on.

Airport transfers are usually about 35 USD for the taxi.

Please return the form previously mentioned including your post-safari accommodation and transfer needs to the office 10 weeks before departure. Please also reconfirm your post safari requirements with your crew on the road.

Alternatively, if you wish to spend a few more days on Zanzibar we can also arrange this for you, either by the beach at Kendwa in the north of the island or in Stone Town. Feel free to get in touch for further details.

If you need to spend a night or more in Dar es Salaam at the end of the trip we can book you accommodation at Sleep Inn on Mahiwa Street in the centre of the city. Sleep Inn has a restaurant, internet access, satellite TV, air conditioning and laundry facilities.

Or alternatively we can book you in at Mikadi Beach Camp which is right on the beach, just outside the city centre, and has simple beach bandas. There is a swimming pool and also a restaurant/lounge area. Please return the form previously mentioned including your post-safari accommodation and transfer needs to the office 10 weeks before departure. Please also confirm your post safari requirements with your crew on the road.

Health and immunisation

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Prior to departure it is essential that you contact a specialist travel medical clinic. Clinics in the UK such as one of Nomad's Clinics 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. Traveling to Africa will expose you to diseases and health hazards that you may not have come across before, such as malaria and waterborne parasites including bilharzia. You must consult a medical professional who specialises in travel medicine before you depart to discuss where you will be traveling 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

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 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 traveling. 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 traveling.

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-sleeved 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. Bilharzia can be serious. Once diagnosed it is treatable but of course it is best to avoid getting infected. It is recommended also to have a medical check up including a blood test particularly to check for bilharzia upon your return from your safari as a precaution.

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

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

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

Detailed itinerary

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Day 1: Nairobi, Kenya, to Arusha, Tanzania

We leave Nairobi on day one for the drive south to Tanzania through sweeping and often arid plains dotted with whistling thorn. We cross into Tanzania at Namanga where you may be tempted by Maasai selling beaded jewellery and wooden carvings.

We have our Departure Meeting to go through tour details, including the group rosters and arrangements for our safari into the Tanzanian game parks. We then relax over our first meal together.

Distance: 278 kms

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

Meals: X1 Dinner

Day 2: Arusha to Central Serengeti National Park

Leaving camp early this morning in landcruisers with pop-up-roofs, we head on safari travelling towards Ngorongoro Conservation Area. The drive takes us through rolling plains and traditional Maasai herdsmen can be seen throughout the region tending cattle and goats. We arrive at Naabi Gate, the entry to the Serengeti, by mid afternoon.

The seemingly endless grasslands of the Serengeti are the stage for the famous wildebeest migration. On

the annual event 1.7 million wildebeest and other game, such as zebra, Thomson's gazelle, impala and topi move en masse between the Mara, Ngorongoro Conservation Area and the Serengeti. The rains and the endless search for water and good grazing drive this movement. We game drive through the afternoon. Kopjes, small hills of rocks, are favourite vantage points for lion dozing in the sun from where they keep an eye out over the vast grassy plains.

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

Distance: 325 kms

Est. Drive Time: 6 hours including time in the Conservation Area, then game drives through the afternoon

Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Lunch, X1 Dinner

Included wildlife activities: Drive through Ngorongoro Conservation Area, Afternoon game drive in Serengeti National Park

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

Day 3: Central Serengeti National Park to Ngorongoro Crater Rim

Game viewing is often at its best early in the day, so we rise early and head out with a local driver to explore more of the Serengeti. Our game drives continue through the morning. This is Siringit – “the place where the land moves on forever” for the Maasai.

Big cats and other predators always capture the imagination. Regularly blonde-maned lions can be seen and with a little luck cheetahs can be found pacing the open grasslands. Leopards can be located resting up in the buffalo thorns and sausage trees that line the Seronera River. Spotted hyenas, bat-eared foxes and jackals also roam Serengeti, as well as the Conservation Area.

By early afternoon we leave the plains and enter more mountainous terrain on crossing back into the Conservation Area in the afternoon. A visit to a Maasai boma can be arranged and we are entertained by the traditional jumping dance performed by Maasai warriors. We can also visit a local school. The Olduvai Gorge Museum is also a stop off point (on request) where you can find out about the work of the Leakey's into the origins of Man.

Our overnight camp tonight is near the rim of the Ngorongoro Crater. We are at altitude here, so it is good to wrap up warmly tonight.

Distance: Game drives, then 163 kms to Ngorongoro Crater rim

Est. Drive Time: Game drives through the morning and slow transit in afternoon

Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Lunch, X1 Dinner

Included wildlife activities: Morning game drive in Serengeti National Park, return drive through the Conservation Area

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

Optional excursions: Maasai Boma, balloon safari over the Serengeti, Olduvai Gorge Museum depending on road conditions and time constraints. Please note if you wish to visit Olduvai Museum you must let the office know prior to the tour departure.

Day 4: Ngorongoro Crater to Arusha

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

Leaving the Crater we travel back to Arusha. On the way there are beautiful views across The Rift and there is usually times to browse in a Maasai market.

We enjoy a prepared barbeque tonight back at the Arusha campsite tonight.

Distance: 195 kms

Est. Drive Time: Game drives through the morning in Ngorongoro Crater, then 5 hours to our Arusha camp in the afternoon

Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Lunch, X1 Dinner

Included wildlife activity: Morning game drives in the Ngorongoro Crater

Vehicle for game drive: 4x4 landcruiser with pop up roof

Days 5 – 6: Arusha to Marangu

We spend the morning in Arusha to shop and explore the town. After lunch we travel to Marangu at the foot of Kilimanjaro, Africa's highest mountain at 5,895 metres, the highest free-standing mountain in the world.

The next day there is the option for a day hike in Kilimanjaro National Park to Mandara hut along the start of the Marangu route. This is a beautiful walk through tropical forest and on clear days there are exciting views of both the Kibo and Mawenzi peaks of the mountain.

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

Distance, Day 5: 120 kms

Est. Drive Time, Day 5: 3 hours

Meals: X2 Breakfasts, X2 Dinners

Optional excursions: Kilimanjaro day hike, Marangu day tour

Day 7: Marangu to Bagamoyo or Dar es Salaam

We head south towards the Indian Ocean coast today, where we park up for a night to make final preparations for our four day stay on the tropical spice island of Zanzibar.

We retire tonight lulled to sleep by the sound of the waters lapping nearby and the breeze in the coconut palms.

NB: Alternatively for those who want to get to Zanzibar a day earlier there is the option of flying today straight on to the island where we can collect you from the airport to transfer you to beach accommodation a day early.

Distance: 485 kms (545 kms if to Dar)

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

Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Dinner

Optional excursion: For those who want to get to Zanzibar early there is the option of flying to Zanzibar today with an extra night at the beach. Note that this needs to be pre booked as early as possible. Contact us for prices and more information

Days 8 – 11: Zanzibar Island

The last few days on tour allows us time on the exotic spice island of Zanzibar. We make core arrangements well ahead of time so we are assured our groups are comfortable in popular beach cottages to the north of the island and for a night in a simple local lodge in the traditional capital. The tour leader travels over to the island with the group to ensure that all runs smoothly. Other excursions available include snorkeling excursions to Prison Island, famous for its giant tortoise, as well as Mnemba Atoll; a trek in Jozani forest to see the red colobus monkeys, and fishing. Scuba diving can be arranged from the Dive Centre near the beach cottages.

Day 8 we travel by ferry in the morning to Stone Town, the ancient capital of Zanzibar Island. We head north, straight to the beach at Kendwa for a three-night stay in beach cottages. 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. There is beach volleyball and fun beach bars.

There are also different excursions to enjoy. You can take a walk in the Jozani Forest, home of the red colobus monkeys or head south to swim with the dolphins off Kizimkazi Beach. There are also opportunities to visit Prison Island with its giant tortoise and to 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.

For the final night, we check into a lodge within Stone Town. Stone Town was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2000. With its classic Swahili architecture of towers, courtyards and narrow alleys fronting onto shops, houses and mosques, the old town will catch 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 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. You can 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, Day 8: 60 kms Bagamoyo to Dar es Salaam
Est. Drive Time, Day 8: Up to 2 hours Bagamoyo to Dar es Salaam
Meals: X5 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 monkeys

Zanzibar Island finish

You can fly out at any time from the island the day after the tour ends or spend extra days here. We can also arrange the ferry back to Dar es Salaam for you should you fly out from there. Contact the office for more information as to arrangements at the end of the tour.

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

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

Money and budgeting

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

Before you go...

1. Your price
2. Your airfare
3. Immunisation and anti-malarials
4. Zanzibar Island stay
5. Insurance
6. Equipment

Step off the plane in Africa with...

7. Spending money - This is very individual and often depends on how much you drink, shop and wish to upgrade. A suggested budget would be 220 - 330 USD.
8. Optional excursions – A traveller who wishes to do most optionals on the trip will spend an average of between 50 - 150 USD.
9. Visas - Up to 150 USD depending on nationality
Purchasing visas in Africa in US dollars for the above passports is currently cheaper than buying ahead of time.
10. Pre and post safari costs

Please note: You need to carry money with you out to Africa to cover Items 7 to 10 (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 300-400 USD cash on this trip. This includes money for your visas as well as excursions on Zanzibar Island.

Remember you will need 20 USD for your Kenyan visa when you land at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport in Nairobi unless you are traveling on a South African passport.

USD notes need to be dated 2008 or later and in good condition. Please note African authorities will reject old notes.

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 Nairobi, you should change up enough money into Kenyan shillings to cover all your personal needs, such as accommodation, transfers and meals including breakfast for the first day before you meet the truck. Please note breakfast is not provided on the first day of the safari.

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

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 the local payment, visas and some of the optionals can only be paid in USD cash. Please note as well that Visa is the preferred card to use for payments.

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

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

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.

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

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 Nairobi and then when you enter Tanzania.

For your information the currencies you will meet are:

Kenya – Kenyan shillings

Tanzania -Tanzanian shillings

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

Remember that some of your trip payments for this Africa tour are 'pay as you go' in nature. Payments for overland trips have been arranged this way for many years as prices can vary month to month and as banking options in Africa can be quite basic at times. Paying as you go also allows you to choose as you travel what you wish to spend your money on. It also means you can see your money is regularly going directly to local businesses and wildlife authorities in Africa.

What is included: -

- Serengeti and Ngorongoro National Parks - 2 night 4 x 4 safari (entry & game drives over 3 days)
- 11 nights accommodation - Camping for x7 nights (for the period prior to traveling to Zanzibar Island) & 4 nights B/B accommodation on Zanzibar Island
- Transfers on the island and a Spice Tour
- Breakfast (x11), dinner (x7) including a pre-prepared barbecue after leaving the Tanzanian
- game parks and a seafood meal by the Indian Ocean, and x3 lunches for the time in the game parks

Also included: -

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

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- Flights including taxes
- Optional excursions as listed
- Pre and post tour Add Ons as well as airport transfers and accommodation
- Lunch except for the time in the game parks
- Dinner whilst on Zanzibar Island
- Other incidentals including drinks, tips, internet use, upgrades from camping and the occasional cheap excursion such as local walks
- Visas
- Extra equipment including sleeping bag, torch and medical kit
- Personal travel insurance
- Vaccinations and anti malarials as required

Personal spending money

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, as well as on lunch and snacks. The spending money is also calculated to cover your meals on Zanzibar Island. You may also need to spend on personal costs such as email, toiletries etc.

At lunchtime 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 East Africa you will find that, in many villages when we stop for lunch, the locals will bring lunch to you - samosas, nuts, fruit and hard boiled eggs - all brought to the side of the truck by street vendors and all sold without you having to leave your seat! Or try meat or chicken kebabs or a local favourite, the chip omelette. Drinks are cold and plentiful.

The current recommendation to carry as personal spending money for this safari is 220 - 330 USD. Allow an extra 30 USD approximately if you think you might want to occasionally upgrade your accommodation to stay in chalets, which are available at 1 or 2 campsites en route. 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 the crew and recent clients. Some weeks you will spend more and other weeks less.

Tippling: You may like to consider tips for good service, particularly at some of the main highlights such as after the Serengeti and Ngorongoro Crater. You may find that you want to organise these tips as a group or individually. If eating out in restaurants, a 10% tip is a good guide to follow.

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

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

Optional activities

These excursions are paid for in Africa, apart from the return ferry (if you need to travel back to Dar es Salaam for onward travels) which is payable prior to departure. Do note 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 October 2019).

TANZANIA

- Kilimanjaro NP day hike to first camp incl. lunch, guide and park fees 125 USD
- Marangu village tour with visit to coffee plantation, waterfall, local traders etc. incl. lunch and guide 60 USD

Zanzibar Island

Upgrade package including flight from Kilimanjaro to Zanzibar and one extra night on the island (to be prepaid)
220 - 280 GBP

Scuba Diving

- Double tank dive (local) 115 USD
- Single dive (local) from 65 USD
- Discover scuba diving 99 USD
- PADI open water diver (3 days + needed) 499 USD

Snorkeling

- Kendwa from 15 USD
- Tumbutu half day from 25 USD
- Mnemba (inc lunch) from 45 USD
- Prison Island Entry and transport (depending on numbers) from \$25 - \$35
- 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

Jozani Forest – to visit the red colobus monkeys
From Stone Town (depending on numbers)

from \$30 - \$120

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.

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

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

There is a range of availability as to what there is to do from destination to destination on the itinerary. At some places such as at Zanzibar there is a lot of choice and either/or optional choices. At other destinations, which are quieter, there are fewer choices if you do not do the listed optional excursion/s.

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

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

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

What do I need to bring?

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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 couple of days at a time. Please note we reserve the right to refuse any extra baggage and sending it home or storing it will be at your own cost.

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

Do remember 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
- USD cash
- Credit card - preferably Visa

Other items to consider

- Student/YHA card
- PADI licence/diving ticket
- International drivers license
- Photocopies of main documents (keep separately)

Essential camping equipment

- Sleeping bag and sheet.
- Eating utensils, including cutlery, cup, plate/bowl.
- Torch and batteries, a head torch being the most useful.
- Mosquito repellent (DEET) 50% strength – up to x1 bottle
- Insect repellent spray
- High-factor sunblock cream
- Lip salve/Chap Stick
- Padlock
- Small personal medical kit including: anti-malarials, vitamin tablets, paracetamol, antibiotic powder, Band-Aids, cotton wool, sterile gloves, flu medication for coughs, colds and sinuses, rehydration salts, sports injury cream for sprains, an antihistamine, immodium, treatment for tummy bugs, stings/bites and sunburn and eye drops. If you wear contact lenses you are advised to carry disposables.

Other items

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

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

In regards to toiletries these are available to buy in Africa including shampoo, soap, toilet paper and tampons. Please note though they can be quite expensive and it can be time-consuming sourcing particular items so carry what you need if possible.

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

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

Consider bringing

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

Electrical items

- Mobile phone

Text messaging can be a good way to stay in touch with the outside world. Remember if you are on international roaming the charges will be very high to make and receive phone calls.

If communication is very important to you, sim cards can be purchased very cheaply on the road.

Some clients have their phone unlocked before arriving in Africa whilst coverage is not always good on this tour. Check you know how to program it to work as an alarm clock

- 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/iPhone 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
- 2 camera batteries
- Polarising filter/lens hood for SLRs
- USB cable – to connect to internet cafes or for downloading
- Camcorder

Charging your equipment

If bringing a camcorder, digital camera, iPod or mobile, your equipment can be charged from the truck.

The trucks have 600 watt Intelligent Power Inverters converting 24v DC to AC mains electricity (220-240v).

This will be sufficient for charging any photographic equipment required. Remember to bring all necessary cables.

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

Clothes

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

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

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

Conditions are rough and belongings do get dusty and can get damaged. Soft bush colours are most suitable. Being able to layer clothing that can be removed easily as the day heats up is an advantage.

This also helps to keep valuables inconspicuous. Clothes with zip and velcro pockets are sensible. Due to the bumpy road conditions women are advised to bring at least one sports bra. Women should dress 'modestly', respecting the sensibilities and attitudes of the people and countries they are visiting. This is of particular importance for your stay on Zanzibar.

Be aware that camouflage clothing should be avoided.

Life on your big yellow truck

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Day to day it is essential that everyone help 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. These are group adventure camping safari, not a 5 star holiday! A sense of humour and patience are essentials to pack! The group experience of seeing your safari through together on the truck is one of the really exciting and fun aspects of the trip. For some, the group experience and day-to-day life on the truck becomes a main highlight.

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

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

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

Schedules and Itineraries

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

The trips are made up of components and quite often during the safari you will probably meet clients doing shorter and longer sections of your trip depending on the booking patterns for the months you are traveling. This works well so that friends can do shorter sections, different people come and go and the group sizes and local payment stay strong.

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 mossie netting in-built at the doors and openings. These are used for two people only.

We also supply high-density foam roll mats.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sickness

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

Meals and cooking on the truck

On the road meals are prepared from the truck using both the non-perishable supplies we buy in bulk prior to the safari and fresh supplies we buy as we travel. Staying fit and healthy on safari is a priority as we do keep busy and we want you to enjoy all you do. Everyone takes turns on a roster basis cooking for the group, being 'assistants' to the cooks and with the clean up. The safari leader assists with menus, recipes and loads of ideas as well as being directly involved with cooking as needed. She/he is available to provide support and encouragement at any time during meal preparation. Cooking together is lots of fun and all part of the group experience! The sort of meals provided day to day are spaghetti and pasta dishes, stir fries, cottage pies, kebabs, curries, stews and casseroles, hamburgers or jacket potatoes, which are then complimented with rice and/or salads. Breakfast is usually fruits, muesli and/or other cereals, toast, as well as some regular cooked breakfasts like eggs, bacon, baked beans or pancakes.

There are also two pre-arranged barbecues booked ahead of time so the whole group can relax and enjoy the evening in the knowledge that someone else is doing the cooking.

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

Travelling as a group does provide everyone within the group a level of security. 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.

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.

Whilst in Nairobi before the start of your safari, all valuables should be kept on your body when not in a safe. Once you join the truck, valuables can be locked safely away in a safety deposit box, which is kept hidden within the vehicle. In Kenya confidence tricksters are particularly common. Be wary of anyone with a hard luck story, asking for assistance, soliciting sponsorship (particularly educational) or anyone offering a deal to change money at favourable rates. In particular Nairobi is known as 'Nairobbery' so please make sure you stay alert at all times.

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. Ensure you follow all instructions and signs provided by the local site and activity operators from destination to destination in regard to health, safety and security issues as we travel. In particular you will travel to places with wild animals. Take note of all warnings and cautionary signs.

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, take responsibility for your rostered tasks and follow all safety instructions requested by operators en route. 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 and rely on your co-operation with this.

Photography

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

Trading, donating and supporting

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

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

Problems or issues you may have while on the tour

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

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

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

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

General code of conduct

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

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

Day to day be sensitive and aware of how you and your group are being perceived by those around you.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Keeping in touch

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

E-mail - you will be able to access email in Nairobi, Arusha and Zanzibar. Please note internet speed is quite often very slow so be warned!

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

If you did need to have something sent to you while 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 Absolute office should be contacted for further advice.

Language

English is understood in Kenya and Tanzania. Learning some Swahili will ensure a warm response from the locals.

The Great Migration

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The migration covers over 3,000 kilometres 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 spreadsheet on the next page.

What and where?

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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



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	3.7	15	VU	C	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
African Elephant	22	70	VU	H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cape Buffalo	11	17	LC	H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Leopard	3	20	NT	C	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Rhinoceros Black	6	35	CR	H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
White	6	35	NT	H	Introduced	Reintroduced	✓	✓	Reintroduced	Reintroduced	Reintroduced	✓	✓	✓
Cheetah	3	11	VU	C	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Spotted Hyena	4	25	LC	O	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
African Wild/Painted Dog	2.5	11	EN	C	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Blue Wildebeest (Gnu)	8.5	20	LC	H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Giraffe	15	28	LC	H	✓	✓	Introduced	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Plains/Burchell's Zebra	12	28	LC	H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Oryx/Gemsbok	8.5	20	LC	H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Sitatunga	7.5	19	LC	H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Greater Kudu	9	7.5	LC	H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Common Eland	9.2	17.5	LC	H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Impala	6.5	12	LC	H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Thomson's Gazelle	6	10.5	NT	H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Genetuk	7	20	NT	H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Dik-dik	6	3.5	LC	H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Warthog	5.7	15	LC	H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mountain Gorilla	8.5	45	EN	H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Chimpanzee	8	50	EN	O	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Baboon	6	25	LC	O	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Golden Monkey	5	19	EN	O	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Zanzibar Red Colobus Monkey	6	20	EN	O	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Rock Hyrax/Dassie	7	12	LC	H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Banded Mongoose	1.7	8	LC	C	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Common Genet	2.5	8	LC	O	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Meerkat	2.5	13	LC	O	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Hippopotamus	7.9	50	VU	H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Nile Crocodile	3*	45	LC	C	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Common Bottlenose Dolphin	12	20	LC	C	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

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

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

The Africans	David Lamb
Malaria Dreams	Stuart Stevens
Out of Africa	Karen Blixen
Letters from Africa	Karen Blixen
Venture Into The Interior	Laurens Van der Post
A Good Man in Africa	William Boyd
The Grass is Singing	Doris Lessing
African Laughter	Doris Lessing
The Tree Where Man Was Born	Peter Matthiessen
African Silences	Peter Matthiessen
Cry the Beloved Country	Alan Paton
The Weather in Africa	Martha Gellhorn
Zanzibar	Giles Foden
I Dreamed of Africa	Kuki Gallman
The Scramble for Africa	Thomas Pakenham
Disgrace	J.M. Coetzee
The State of Africa	Martin Meredith
Blood River	Tim Butcher
The Zanzibar Chest	Aiden Hartlet
In the Footsteps of Mr Kurtz	Michela Wrong
River God and The Seven Scrolls, and other titles	Wilbur Smith
Africa on a Shoestring	Geoff Crowther
Healthy Travel Africa	Isabelle Young, Lonely Planet 2000

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

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

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

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

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

3rd March 2020