



ABSOLUTE AFRICA

The Big Six 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 the Big Six

| Depart Nairobi | Finish Victoria Falls | Price | Local Payment |
|----------------|-----------------------|--------|---------------|
| 20 Sep 2024 | 12 Nov 2024 | £3,060 | US\$1,000 |
| 14 Oct 2024 | 06 Dec 2024 | £3,060 | US\$1,000 |
| 04 Dec 2024 | 26 Jan 2025 | £3,060 | US\$1,000 |
| 19 Jan 2025 | 13 Mar 2025 | £2,790 | US\$1,000 |
| 24 Feb 2025 | 18 Apr 2025 | £2,790 | US\$1,000 |
| 20 Apr 2025 | 12 Jun 2025 | £2,790 | US\$1,000 |
| 21 May 2025 | 13 Jul 2025 | £2,790 | US\$1,000 |
| 20 Jun 2025 | 12 Aug 2025 | £3,060 | US\$1,000 |
| 26 Jul 2025 | 17 Sep 2025 | £3,060 | US\$1,000 |
| 25 Aug 2025 | 17 Oct 2025 | £3,060 | US\$1,000 |
| 20 Sep 2025 | 12 Nov 2025 | £3,060 | US\$1,000 |
| 14 Oct 2025 | 06 Dec 2025 | £3,060 | US\$1,000 |
| 04 Dec 2025 | 26 Jan 2026 | £3,060 | US\$1,000 |
| 20 Jan 2026 | 14 Mar 2026 | £2,790 | US\$1,000 |

Countries visited: Kenya • Uganda • Rwanda • Tanzania • Malawi • Zambia • Zimbabwe

Highlights: Sheldrick's Elephant Orphanage • Giraffe Park • Masai Mara • Visit to a Maasai boma • Rift Valley • Elsamere • Lake Naivasha • Hell's Gate National Park • Crater Lake Sanctuary • Hippo cruise •

Lake Nakuru National Park • Whitewater rafting on the White Nile • Kayaking • Volunteer in a village school • Ziwa Rhino Sanctuary • Lake Victoria • Chimpanzee trekking • Mburu National Park with a game cruise • The Genocide Memorial and Museum • Mountain gorilla trek • Golden monkey trek • Dian Fossey's grave • Orphanage visit • Batwa (Pygmy) village • Grumeti Reserve • Serengeti National Park • Ngorongoro Crater • Zanzibar Island • Spice tour • Snorkeling and scuba diving • Mnemba Atoll • Prison Island and the giant tortoise • Dolphin boat cruise • Red colobus monkey trek • Lake Malawi • Horse riding • South Luangwa National Park • Matopos National Park • Lake Kariba houseboats • Great Zimbabwe Ruins • Rhino trek • Victoria Falls • Whitewater rafting on the Zambezi • Flights over the Falls • Bungee jump • Zambezi gorge swing • Canoeing • Sunset cruise

Safari structure: This safari is a component of our main Absolute program. Along the way you may meet travelers who are doing shorter or longer components of this program. This trip allows you to visit the highlights of East and Southern Africa including the Masai Mara, the option of a gorilla trek, the Serengeti and Ngorongoro Crater, Lake Malawi and finishes in Victoria Falls at the famous Mosi-oa-Tunya, 'the smoke that thunders'. Alternatively you may like to continue with us to Johannesburg or extend your time away by joining us for a trip into Botswana's Okavango Delta as well as Chobe National Park. Please feel free to contact us for further details.

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Flights

When arranging your flights we suggest that you arrive in Nairobi the day prior to departure. The last few days of the trip can be spent on either side of the Falls, on either the Livingstone, Zambian side, or the Victoria Falls, Zimbabwean side, and flights for the end of your trip can be arranged from the airport on either side of the Zambezi River. We are currently finishing on the Zimbabwean side, but this isn't always the case.

So as not to miss any time at The Falls for activities, we advise booking flights out the day after your trip ends.

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 Johannesburg, including Virgin, Qatar, Kenyan Airways, Emirates, Ethiopian and British Airways.

South African Airways and Airlink offer flights from either Victoria Falls or Livingstone to Johannesburg.

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

Insurance

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Your safety and enjoyment when traveling with us are of the utmost importance to us, which is why we emphasise that it is essential that you have arranged adequate travel insurance to cover the entire duration of your 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 is a condition of booking that you have contacted your insurers to confirm that the cover you have arranged is appropriate for ALL your requirements, taking into account the remote nature of overland travel, and that any hazardous activities you may intend to undertake are fully covered, including whitewater rafting on grade 5 rapids, scuba diving, trekking Kilimanjaro, volunteer work, tandem sky diving and bungee jumping.

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

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

Visa requirements for the Big Six Safari

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Your passport needs to be valid for at least 6 months after your trip finishes. Ensure as well you have adequate pages in your passport for each country you visit. As a guide then, for the Big Six Safari you will want to have a minimum of 10 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. More information can be found 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.

At present please note that all travellers must apply for an eTA (electronic travel authorization) for Kenya prior to arrival. This is 30 USD.

Most passport holders will then need to apply to Uganda for a visa online. This is 50 USD. Irish nationals do not require a visa for Uganda.

For those nationalities that need to pay for a visa to Rwanda, this can be purchased at the border with USD cash and is currently costed at 30 USD.

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

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

| Passport | Kenya | Uganda | Rwanda | Tanzania | Malawi | Zambia | Zimbabwe | Total in USD |
|---------------|-------|--------|--------|----------|--------|--------|----------|--------------|
| Australian | \$30 | \$50 | - | \$50 | - | - | \$30 | \$160 |
| New Zealand | \$30 | \$50 | - | \$50 | - | - | \$30 | \$160 |
| South African | \$30 | \$50 | - | - | - | - | - | \$80 |
| Canadian | \$30 | \$50 | - | \$50 | - | - | \$75 | \$205 |
| American | \$30 | \$50 | \$30 | \$100 | - | - | \$30 | \$240 |
| British | \$30 | \$50 | - | \$50 | - | - | \$55 | \$185 |
| German | \$30 | \$50 | \$30 | \$50 | - | - | \$30 | \$190 |
| Dutch | \$30 | \$50 | \$30 | \$50 | - | - | \$30 | \$190 |
| Irish | \$30 | - | \$30 | \$100 | - | - | \$55 | \$215 |
| French | \$30 | \$50 | \$30 | \$50 | - | - | \$30 | \$190 |

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

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

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

Pre and post safari information

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The Big Six safari departs from both the Heron Hotel at 7.30 am on the departure date, or Wildebeest Eco Camp at 8.15 am.

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

Accommodation options

THE HERON 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

11,000 KES for a single en-suite room including breakfast

14,000 KES for a double en suite room or twin share en suite room including breakfast.

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

US\$35pp (4,550 KES) for 1 person

US\$20pp (2,600 KES pp) for 2 people

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 Portico 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 | 32 USD (3,500 KES) |
| Single Garden Tent | 50 USD (5,500 KES) |
| Double Garden Tent | 77 USD (8,500 KES) |
| Single Cottage Room | 77 USD (8,500 KES) |
| Double Cottage Room | 110 USD (12,000 KES) |
| Single En-suite Garden Tent | 95 USD (10,500 KES) |
| Double En-suite Garden Tent | 118 USD (13,000 KES) |

All prices include breakfast.

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

US\$20 - 25 (2,500 KES) for 1 person

US\$15 - 18 (1,500 KES) 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 Available in Nairobi

We can also arrange tours to take in some of the sights of Nairobi not visited on day one of your overland trip.

Nairobi National Park

We can arrange a half-day visit to Nairobi National Park, which is the oldest park in Kenya for game drives. 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

Climb Kilimanjaro: Arrive 7-9 days prior to climb to the 'roof of Africa', Kilimanjaro. A range of trekking routes are available. For our treks we work in partnership with Samson Lauwo, who is our Chief Guide. Samson is the grandson of the famous Kinyala "Mzee Lauwo" who led Hans Mayer, the first European to summit Kilimanjaro in 1889, so we bring a dedication, proud history and immense amount of experience to our treks. For further details contact us or visit <http://www.absoluteafrica.com/Climb-Kilimanjaro-with-Absolute-Africa>

Beach Stays on the Kenyan Coast: Arrive a few days early to unwind on the white beaches of the Kenyan coast. Price from \$22 USD pppn in simple tree huts. Please contact us for further details.

Departure from Nairobi

On the departure date we will collect you from either from The Heron Hotel, Nairobi, at 7.30 am, or

Wildebeest Eco Camp at 8.15 am, depending on your location.

We spend our first day visiting Sheldrick's Elephant Orphanage and the Giraffe Park. There is also time for final preparations for the trip, before we head out on the open road on the second day.

The crew will also 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. Ensure you read the relevant sections in this dossier carefully as well. The crew will collect the local payment, organise rosters and tent partners, show you how to put up your tent, and answer any questions you may have on day one. 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. 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

Nairobi is known as 'Nairobbery'. Most visits to Nairobi are fun, happy experiences. At the same time, make sure you stay alert at all times and take sensible precautions. You are best to 'dress down' and not walk the streets at night. Don't wear or carry anything valuable or new including cameras and keep mobile phones conspicuous. Do not leave anything of value lying around on display.

Eating out in Nairobi prior to departure

The restaurant at The Heron Portico Hotel 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 would advise that it is best to catch a taxi down to the Pan Afric, particularly if eating there at night. The taxi should cost approximately 300 - 400 KES.



Important pre-safari details

Upon booking this overland trip a form is sent to you on which you can advise us of all your booking requirements in Nairobi including transfers and accommodation. 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.

Do protect your valuables at all times. Whilst staying at The Heron Hotel or Wildebeest please remember to look for last-minute messages in the foyer from your crew.

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

Arriving in Kenya – Jomo Kenyatta International Airport, Nairobi

At the airport you will find all signs are in English and Swahili. There is always a bank open for international arrivals.

You will find a bank 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 cover any meals you 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\$ =130 KES (June 2024)

Traveling into Nairobi - The airport is situated 15km from the centre of Nairobi. The easiest way to get into town and to The Heron Hotel 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 Absolute Office to order a taxi for you ahead of time so that there is someone waiting for you at the airport when you arrive do let us know using the previously mentioned form.

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

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

At the end of your overland safari

At the conclusion of the trip we can stay on either the Zambian or Zimbabwean side of the Zambezi River in Victoria Falls itself. You can camp with us on the last night which is included in your payment.

Taxi transfers are between 15 USD and 30 USD, payable in USD cash depending on which airport you are using for your onward flights. Please talk with your group leader in regards to your transfer needs as well if you need any additional accommodation at the end of the trip until you fly out.

If crossing the border to fly out do remember to budget for your extra visa costs if necessary. The Zambian visa is now free for most nationalities.

Remember if flying out from Livingstone as well that there is 25 USD airport tax from the Zambian side. A \$5 security tax is also now applicable. If this is not included in your ticket, please have this ready.

Accommodation can be arranged on either side of the river as well. You should budget between 20 to 120 USD a night depending on availability and whether you wish to stay in a dorm or single room, payable in USD cash.

In Victoria Falls we can book rooms at Rest Camp where the group camps at the end of the trip.

| | |
|------------------------------|---------|
| Dorm room: | 20 USD |
| Basic Twin/Double non a/c: | 46 USD |
| Ensuite Twin/Double non a/c: | 100 USD |
| Ensuite Twin/Double ac room: | 120 USD |

Airport transfer: 15 USD per person based on x2 people sharing. 30 USD for x1 person.

In Livingstone we recommend Jollyboys Backpackers where there are dorms and private rooms ranging from 15 - 65 USD. This can be booked online at <https://backpackzambia.com/>

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.

If you need further information or assistance as to your arrangements at the end of the trip prior to departure please contact the office.

Heading further afield

We run a short 6 day add on into Botswana including the Okavango Delta and Chobe National Park. Price £795 including a game cruise and game drive in Chobe National Park and a two night mokoro safari. Do let us know if you would like to join us for this Add-On.

Health and immunisation

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

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

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

You may also like to check out the following websites:

www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk

www.dh.gov.uk

Suggested travel clinics in the United Kingdom

Nomad Travel Stores and Clinics

Tel: 01341 555 061

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

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

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

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

www.traveldoctor.com.au/

www.traveldoctor.co.nz

www.traveldoctor.co.za

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

Suggested immunisation requirements (This is a guide only)

Typically the immunisations usually suggested for the countries visited on this safari given as a guide only 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.
- Typhoid
- Polio
- Tetanus
- Hepatitis A (three months)
- Meningitis
- Diphtheria
- Tuberculosis
- Other suggested immunisations - Hepatitis B, rabies.

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

The choices usually suggested are:

Larium, taken x 1 a week

Doxycycline, taken x 1 a day

Malarone, taken x 1 a day

Do think about a reminder system for yourself so you remember to take your medication. If taking a daily medication such 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 on page 22.

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 avoid against being bitten:

- Cover exposed skin thoroughly in insect repellent, such as DEET, from dusk to dawn, reapplying regularly. If applying with sunblock apply it above the sunblock.
- Ensure you carry enough DEET with you to Africa. It is not easy to get hold of mosquito repellent once on the road.
- Wear long sleeves and long legged light weight clothing in light colours as well as socks.
- Always sleep under a mosquito net or in a secure tent with all zips zipped up.
- Wear impregnated wrist and ankle bands.
- You may wish to treat clothing with permethrin.

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

Other medical issues

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

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

Please ensure you contact a travel health clinic prior to departure for the most recent professional medical

advice. The above is given as a broad guide only.

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

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

The Big Six Safari itinerary

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Day 1: Nairobi, Kenya

On our first morning, we visit animal conservation projects in Nairobi. We take a visit to Sheldrick's Elephant Orphanage in time to see the orphaned elephants coming in from the bush for their morning feed – a great introduction to the work being done to protect Africa's elephants and other species. At The Giraffe Park we can find out everything giraffe-related, with an opportunity to hand feed giraffe in the beautiful grounds.

We have our Departure Meeting today and enjoy a fun first evening together getting to know our fellow travellers, the Crew and the big yellow truck. The first night camping in a tent, with an early rise in the morning.

Distance: 0 kms

Est. Drive Time: 0 hours

Meals: X1 Dinner

Included Wildlife Activity: Sheldrick's Elephant Park, The Giraffe Park

Day 2: Nairobi to Loita Hills

Today the adventure truly begins. We have an early breakfast then set out for the bumpy and dusty road heading for the remote plateau of the Masai Mara.

En route we overnight at Loita Hills where we stay with the Maasai, East Africa's most renowned ancient people who proudly retain so many of their traditional ways. We are welcomed with traditional songs and dance.

This afternoon we walk in the hills with Maasai warriors and learn about traditional life in the bush. We will also visit a woman's village and the local hot springs. Traditional dancing is performed, and in the evening we spend time with some of the warriors around the fire to find out more about their culture.

Distance: 261 kms

Est. Drive Time: 7 hours incl. stopping at the Rift Valley Viewpoint and for shopping

Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Dinner

Days 3 - 4: Loita Hills to Masai Mara

Up early we have time for some "warrior training" this morning before we say goodbye to our Maasai hosts. We visit the local Maasai school and then are on the road to Kenya's most famous game reserve, the Masai Mara.

The Masai Mara is renowned worldwide for the wildebeest migration. These are our first game drives in the wilds of Africa and we are on the watch for all the wildlife for which Africa is famous. With some luck, expect to see elephant, lion, cheetah, zebra, giraffe, hippo, crocodile, gazelle, warthog and more!

Distance, Day 3: 60 kms

Est. Drive Time, Day 3: 2 hours

Meals: X2 Breakfasts, X2 Dinners

Included wildlife activities: Afternoon game drives in the Masai Mara (x2), Morning game drives in the Masai Mara (x1)

Vehicle for game drives: 4x4 Landcruiser with pop up roof.

Optional excursion: Balloon Safari

Days 5 - 6: Masai Mara to Lake Naivasha

Following our first camp in the bush, we head out to explore further in the Masai Mara, either on an early morning balloon safari or a morning game drive. We then leave the park by lunchtime to head for Lake Naivasha.

There are numerous highlights on offer at Lake Naivasha. By day, hippo wallow in the lake and at night they come out to graze on the lawns near our camp.

There are options here to take a guided walk to the Crater Lake Game Sanctuary, head out on a hippo cruise on the lake as well as enjoy high tea at Elsamere, the home of Joy Adamson of 'Born Free' fame, where we can also enjoy the antics of the black and white colobus monkeys on the lawns of the Conservation Centre.

A cycling safari can be arranged in Hell's Gate National Park where you can see evidence of past volcanic activity, as well as a range of wildlife including gazelle, impala, eland, and the fascinating and abundant bird and plant life of the region. The Maasai Cultural Centre in the park also allows further insight into the Maasai people.

Distance, Day 5: 258 kms

Est. Drive Time, Day 5: 6 hours to Naivasha camp incl. lunch and shopping stop

Meals: X2 Breakfasts, X2 Dinners

Included wildlife activity: Morning game drive, Masai Mara

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

Optional excursions: Balloon safari, Elsamere for afternoon tea, cycling in Hell's Gate National Park, guided walk to Green Crater Lake, hippo cruise

Days 7 - 8: Naivasha to Nakuru

Leaving Naivasha we head to our next camp near Nakuru National Park. Here we can enjoy a swim in the swimming pool at the camp.

We enjoy a day of game drives in Nakuru National Park amongst acacia forests, grasslands and candelabra euphorbia stands. There is a chance to see both black and white rhino, zebra, giraffe, eland and, with a little luck, lion and leopard. The soda lake can be pink with greater and lesser flamingo, and at Baboon Cliffs you can enjoy the views across this very special place. This small gem of a park is very much a highlight.

Distance, Day 7: 70 kms

Est. Drive Time, Day 7: 3 hours incl. a stop for shopping

Meals: X2 Breakfasts, X2 Dinners

Included wildlife activity: Full days game drives in Nakuru National Park

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

Days 9 – 10: Nakuru to Jinja, Uganda

We visit Nakuru town for shopping before the mountainous drive through the Nandi Hills to Eldoret and Raj's zany campsite.

The following day we cross into Uganda and head for our camp by the White Nile at Jinja, just downstream from the source of the Nile.

We have a briefing of all the activities available to us over the next few days staying at this adventure hub.

Distance over 2 days: 420 kms

Est. Drive Time, Day 9: 5 hours incl. lunch and shopping stop

Est. Drive Time, Day 10: +/- 7.5 hours (depending on the border) incl. stops for lunch and shopping

Meals: X2 Breakfasts, X1 Dinner

Days 11 - 12: Jinja

After several days on the road we enjoy a welcome break from travelling. Jinja is known as Uganda's adventure capital. Spend a day white water rafting or kayaking in the equatorial sunshine. Experience the thrill of the 'Nile High' Bungee. There are also options to explore this lush tropical region on quad bikes, mountain bikes or on horseback.

Many also enjoy helping out in a local preschool, or take their time on a village walk. Try the food available in small local restaurants or at the campsite restaurant.

Distance: 0 kms

Est. Drive Time: 0 hours

Meals: None

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

Day 13: Jinja to Ziwa Rhino Sanctuary

Leaving Jinja, we return to the bush to travel to the Ziwa Rhino sanctuary, the only place in Uganda to see rhino in the wild. The 70 square kilometre reserve is a host to numerous species of monkey, antelope, hippo, crocodile and an abundance of birdlife, including the Shoebill.

In the afternoon there is the option to go for a rhino trek with one of the trained rangers on foot. Also an early morning boat trip is on offer with a chance to see more of the amazing swamps in the reserve.

Distance: 225 kms

Est. Drive Time: 4 hours

Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Dinner

Included wildlife activity: Entry to Ziwa Rhino Sanctuary

Optional excursions: Rhino trek, boat ride

Day 14: Ziwa Rhino Sanctuary to Kampala

We drive to Uganda's capital, Kampala. On our journey, roadside stalls sell fresh rotisserie meat such as 'chix on sticks'. Reaching the capital we get to banks, e-mail and can do some shopping.

Distance: 170 kms

Est. Drive Time: 6 hours

Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Dinner

Days 15 - 16: Kampala to Lake Mbuo National Park

The next day we leave camp to head into lush countryside. Watch for long horned Ankole cattle. On the way we stop at a local drum and craft market, and at the Equator there is time for a photo shoot. Heading on we camp beside Lake Mbuo National Park, a picturesque small gem of a park, with forest fringed lakes hemmed in by rolling green hills. A morning game drive in the park as well as a boat cruise are included hoping for sightings of giraffe, impala, Burchell's zebra, topi, eland, waterbuck and reedbuck. Our safari takes us across savanna and wetland habitats, the park also boasting much birdlife. Crocodile and hippo inhabit the lakes. Evening game drives are also of offer

Distance, Day 15: 242 kms

Est. Drive Time, Day 15: 6 1/2 hours incl stops for lunch and photos at The Equator

Meals: X2 Breakfasts, X2 Dinners

Included wildlife activities: Morning game drive and boat trip, Lake Mbuo National Park

Vehicle for game drives: 4x4 open safari vehicle

Optional excursion: Evening game drive

Day 17: Lake Mbuo National Park to Kalinzu Forest

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

Distance: 140 kms

Est. Drive Time: 4 hours

Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Dinner

Optional excursion: Chimpanzee trek in Kalinzu Forest.

Day 18: Kalinzu Forest to Kisoro

We make our way to Kisoro, stopping over at Kabale where we stock up. We spend the next two nights at a local hotel in the border town of Kisoro which is surrounded by the Virunga Mountains, the home of the endangered mountain gorilla. A visit to Lake Bunyoni can be arranged on the way to enjoy time on the lake.

Distance: 226 kms

Est. Drive Time: 9 hours incl. lunch

Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Dinner

Day 19: Kisoro

At altitudes of up to 3,500 feet, gorilla trekking through dense vegetation on the volcanic slopes of the Virungas is one of the trip's high points. The gorillas are magic to visit. Herbivores, who munch the day away, when they are not playing or sleeping, they live in family groups under the charge of an older dominant male. Known as the silverback, this adult male can weigh up to 350 lbs. Despite their size, the gorillas are shy, gentle and sensitive creatures, in great danger of extinction.

There are several other excursions on offer here as well apart from the gorilla trek. For another view of the forest head out to trek a troupe of golden monkeys in the lower reaches of the forest. The golden monkey is a sub species of the blue monkey and is named for its vibrant colouring. A tour to an indigenous group of Batwa or Pygmy can also be organised in Kisoro, this group of local peoples sadly having being relocated away from their traditional life in the forest. The local Pygmy dance troupe are invited to our camp to entertain with some traditional drumming.

Distance: 0 kms

Est. Drive Time: 0 hours

Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Dinner

Optional excursions: Mountain gorilla trek Bwindi Impenetrable Forest (Uganda).

Golden monkeys trek or orphanage visit. Batwa (Pygmy) village visit, or coffee tour. Lake Mutande

Days 20 - 21: Kisoro to Musanze, Rwanda

Today we leave Uganda to enter Rwanda "the Land of a Thousand Hills". Our next camp is involved in very simple community based projects including basket weaving and banana beer making. Alternatively a cycle tour in the local area can be arranged.

Those wishing to head out on the steep trek to see Dian Fossey's grave spend time today in the Rwandan forest. On the trek you can also see Digit's grave - one of her favourite gorillas - and the Karisoke Research Centre. Dian is world famous for her research work and passionate commitment to the mountain gorillas' survival.

Distance, day 20: 51 kms

Est. Drive Time, day 20: 3 hours (depending on the border)

Meals: X2 Breakfast, X2 Dinner

Optional excursions: Golden monkeys trek, banana beer making, basket weaving, bike tour, Trek to Dian Fossey's grave.

Day 22: Musanze to Kigali

Today we head off early, making our way to the capital Kigali, a very European style city to spend the night in Kigali, and the modern capital of Rwanda. A country that has had a turbulent history, Rwanda has now moved rapidly forward in an attempt to put their past behind them. We honour and reflect on this past during a visit to the Genocide Memorial in the capital Kigali. Some also take time to visit the Nyamata Church Memorial, or a Women's Centre, Hotel des Mille Collines (well known from the movie Hotel Rwanda), or wander in the local markets.

Distance, Day 21: 115 kms

Est. Drive Time, Day 21: 3 hours

Meals: X1 Breakfasts, X1 Dinners

Optional excursions: Visit to the Genocide museum and memorial, Nyamata Church Memorial.

Days 23 - 24: Kigali to Mwanza, Tanzania

We now cross the Rusumo border to enter Tanzania below Lake Victoria. Over two days travelling off the beaten track we see a little of the 'real Africa' away from the main tourist drag.

We stay in a small local African guest house on our first night in Tanzania in Nyakanazi. An opportunity to experience a warm welcome from the village and the owners of the guesthouse.

Next day's adventure drive finds us on back roads heading for the south side of Lake Victoria to our camp in the city of Mwanza which we reach by ferry. Our camp is set by Lake Victoria.

Distance over two days: 535 kms

Est. Drive Time, Day 23: +/- 10.5 hours (depending on the border) incl. lunch stop

Est. Drive Time, Day 24: 9 hours incl. ferry journey, lunch and shopping stop

Meals: X2 Breakfasts, X2 Dinners

Day 25: Mwanza to Bunda, Tanzania

Reaching Bunda we prepare for the next exciting part of the tour, our entry into the world famous Serengeti National Park and Ngorongoro Crater, ecosystems boasting the Big Five. There is time this afternoon to stretch our legs on a hill walk near camp offering wonderful views.

Distance Day 25: 156 kms

Est. Drive Time: 3 - 4 hours incl. lunch stop

Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Dinner

Optional excursion: Hill walk

Day 26: Bunda to Ngiri, central Serengeti

We pass through the Grumeti Reserve on our drive to Ikoma Gate where we enter the Serengeti in our overland truck for game drives. The famous migration often passes this area year in, year out in search of fresh grazing anytime from late April through to August.

Entering the park by truck allows the group to travel on an amazing journey from one end of this gorgeous park to the other. In the truck too, we are up high, and from the large windows we have a great vantage point across this fabulous environment.

The Serengeti is Tanzania's oldest national park. On our slow game drive through the park this afternoon we regularly have wonderful viewing including of the big cats and much other wildlife. Home to The Big Five, it is famous for the annual migration when more than 200,000 zebra and 300,000 Thomson's gazelle join the wildebeest's trek. Even when the migration is quiet, the Serengeti is home to resident large herds of buffalo, elephant herds and giraffe, as well as thousands upon thousands of eland, topi, kongoni, impala and Grant's gazelle. Hippo pods can be found lazing in water pools, and the park is also home to the "big cats" – lion, leopard and cheetah, and has fabulous birdlife including ostrich and secretary birds.

We wild camp tonight in the centre of the Serengeti.

Distance to Ikoma Gate, Serengeti: 160 kms
Est. Drive Time: 5 hours to Ikoma Gate incl. slow transit through Grumeti
Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Dinner

Included wildlife activity: Afternoon game drive, Serengeti National Park
Vehicle for game drive: Overland truck

Day 27: Central Serengeti to Ngorongoro Conservation Area

Up early, the morning being the most active time in the Serengeti, we head out on the African savannah for morning game drives in the Serengeti National Park.

For a different perspective and unparalleled views of the African plains, a balloon safari can be arranged in advance allowing you to drift in silence as the sun rises over the Serengeti.

By lunchtime we enter the Ngorongoro Conservation Area gradually making our way to camp. On the way we pass Olduvai Gorge. The Museum can be visited depending on timing and road conditions en route.

The semi-nomadic Maasai tribespeople can be found throughout this region too still living their traditional lifestyle. Often dressed in their distinctive checked fabric and beaded jewelry, they can be regularly seen on our drive today tending to their herds.

We stop to visit a Maasai boma later today during which the Maasai perform a march past and the traditional adamu or "jumping dance" for us.

Our landscape changes as we climb above the Ngorongoro Crater heading to camp with sweeping views across the Crater.

Our evening meal and overnight camp are above the Ngorongoro Crater. At altitude temperatures drop as the sun sets for another night camped in the wilds under African stars.

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

Included wildlife activity: Morning game drive, Serengeti in overland truck.
Afternoon slow transit drive, Ngorongoro Conservation Area
Vehicle for game drive: Overland truck

Optional excursions: Balloon safari, Maasai boma visit
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 28: Ngorongoro Crater to Arusha

After an early breakfast, we descend 2,000 feet into the Crater in 4x4s landcruisers. The basin of the Crater is home to many, so a fantastic opportunity to see rhino, hippo, lion, elephant, hyena, buffalo, zebra, impala, wildebeest, cheetah, monkey, ostrich, flamingo and more.

After our morning game drives in the Crater and a picnic lunch we travel to Arusha. Time permitting we stop to purchase traditional beads, carvings and special artwork at a market stall on the way.

Back in Arusha, we enjoy a welcome hot shower and a barbecue tonight.

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

Included wildlife activity: Morning game drive, Ngorongoro Crater
Vehicle for game drive: 4x4 landcruiser with pop up roof

Days 29 - 30: Arusha to Marangu

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

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 nice views of both the Kibo and Mawenzi peaks of the mountain.

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

Distance, Day 29: 120 km

Est. Drive Time, Day 29: 3 hours

Meals: X2 Breakfasts, X2 Dinners

Optional excursions: Kilimanjaro day hike, Marangu day tour

Day 31: Marangu to Bagamoyo or Dar es Salaam

We head south today parking up on the coast.

We make final preparations this evening for our break from truck life to spend four days on the exotic Swahili spice island of Zanzibar. The core arrangements for the visit to Zanzibar Island are made well ahead of time so we are assured our groups are comfortable in the popular beach cottages to the north of the island at Kendwa and for a night in a local lodge in the traditional capital.

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

Distance: 485 (545 if to Dar) kms

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

Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Dinner

Days 32 – 35: Optional Stay on Zanzibar Island

We leave camp for the ferry port in Dar es Salaam for the optional visit to the exotic island of Zanzibar. The tour leader travels over to the island with the group as well to ensure that all runs smoothly.

Heading north to Kendwa we enjoy white sand beaches, and can swim and snorkel in the crystal clear waters of the Indian Ocean. Scuba diving can be arranged from the dive centre near the beach cottages, as well as fishing trips. Otherwise book a snorkelling trip to Prison Island famous for its giant Aldabra tortoise, or to Mnemba Atoll, or visit the turtle sanctuary or trek in Jozani Forest to see the red colobus monkeys amongst beautiful scenery on the mangrove walkway.

There is a wide diversity of marine life off Zanzibar. The diving is some of the best in the world, with stunning coral gardens and more than 350 fish species recorded. Sightings of dolphins and turtles are quite regular occurrences, while humpback whales and whale sharks are occasionally spotted.

On the last day we spend time in the traditional capital, Stone Town. Take a spice tour to find out a little about the spice trade that dominated the island's history, as well as the slave trade. On our final night here we can explore the colorful night market.

Distance: 60 kms

Est. Drive Time: Up to 2 hours

Meals, Day 32: X1 Breakfast

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

Day 36: Zanzibar Island to Morogoro

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

Distance: 194 kms

Est. Drive Time: 6 hours

Meals: X1 Dinner

Days 37: Morogoro to Iringa

We pass through Mikumi National Park, with frequent sightings of elephant, giraffe, zebra and antelope from the roadside. Travelling through Baobab Valley our journey takes us passed the Ruaha River and to our overnight campsite at Iringa for our last night in Tanzania.

Distance: 310 kms

Est. Drive Time: 9 hours incl. lunch stop

Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Dinner

Days 38 - 41: Iringa to Kande, Malawi

We move through the mountains of the southern Rift Valley and enter Malawi. Travelling south close to the shores of Lake Malawi, the third largest lake in Africa, created in the chasm provided by the Rift Valley. Malawi is one of the poorest countries en route yet visitors are often struck by the warm welcome we receive. Malawi is affectionately known as “the warm heart of Africa”.

We stay on campsites beside the Lake, ideal locations and set beside local fishing villages. We are welcomed here and this is a great opportunity to immerse yourself in traditional village life. Try bartering too with local craftsmen selling beautiful carvings including the traditional Malawi chairs, and enjoy sharing in a village meal during our stay.

The Lake itself is home to the brightly coloured and prolific mbuna cichlid fish and scuba diving or snorkelling here has been described as ‘rather like a dive into a fish tank’. Canoeing is also an option on the lake. Malawi is a spectacularly beautiful country and horse riding and trekking can be arranged too.

Distance, Day 38: 498 kms

Distance, Day 39 or 40: 235 kms

Est. Drive Time, Day 38: 11 hours (depending on the border)

Est. Drive Time, Day 39 or 40: +/- 5 hours incl. stop for shopping

Meals: X4 Breakfasts, X4 Dinners

Optional excursions: Water sports, including snorkelling, canoeing, scuba diving and pedalo hire, horse riding, village walk, wood carving lesson

Days 42 - 43: Lake Malawi to South Luangwa National Park

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

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

Distance: 600 kms

Est. Drive Time, Day 42: +/- 11 hours (depending on the border) and incl. stops for shopping and lunch

Meals: X2 Breakfasts, X2 Dinners

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

Vehicle for game drive: Open 4x4 safari vehicle

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

Days 44 – 45: South Luangwa to Lusaka

We now make our way towards Lusaka the modern capital of Zambia. Here we have an opportunity to catch up on communications and stock up on supplies from a supermarket.

Distance over two days: 560 km

Est. Drive Time, Day 44: +/- 6 hours incl. stop for lunch and shopping

Est. Drive Time, Day 45: +/- 6 hours

Meals: X2 Breakfasts, X2 Dinners

Days 46 – 47: Lusaka to Lake Kariba, Zimbabwe

Optional stay on Lake Kariba houseboats

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

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

This is an outing always popular with all local Zimbabweans. For those who want to stay back you can relax at the campsite.

Distance, Day 46: 208 km

Est. Drive Time, Day 46: 4 - 5 hours depending on the border and incl. photo stop at Lake Kariba dam wall

Meals: X2 Breakfasts, X2 Dinners

Optional excursion: Houseboat cruise on Lake Kariba

Days 48 – 49: Lake Kariba to Great Zimbabwe Ruins

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

Distance, Day 48: 249 kms

Est. Drive Time, Day 48: +/- 6 hours incl. shopping stop

Distance, Day 49: 440 kms

Est. Drive Time, Day 49: 9 hours incl. shopping and lunch stops

Meals: X2 Breakfasts, X2 Dinners

Day 50: Great Zimbabwe Ruins to Bulawayo

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

Arriving into Zimbabwe's second largest city, we organize our safari into Matopos National Park.

Distance: 307 kms

Est. Drive Time: 3 - 4 hours

Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Dinner

Included activity: Visit to Great Zimbabwe with guided tour.

Day 51: Bulawayo

The rhino trek in Matopos National Park is one of the most thrilling highlights of the tour for many of our travellers. The park is home to both the endangered black and white rhinoceros, now closely guarded in

an intensive conservation program, and the magnificent sable antelope. We track rhino on foot with one of Zimbabwe's most knowledgeable professional guides, as well as look for other game. We also find out the different uses and medicinal value of the plant life in the park.

The Matopos Hills have the largest concentration of raptors (birds of prey) in the world and black eagles can be seen soaring high over the dramatic ancient landscape of granite boulder stacks. This is a hauntingly beautiful park for our last wildlife experience on tour in the African bush.

This is an area of spectacular scenery of large balancing granite boulders, which lead Mzilikazi, founder of the Ndebele nation, to give the area its name, which means 'Bald Heads'. Cecil Rhodes and several other leading early white settlers are buried amongst the rocky outcrops. There are also very special San Bushmen cave paintings found in the hills.

Distance: 0 kms

Est. Drive Time: 0 hours

Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Dinner

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

Vehicle for game drive: Open 4x4 safari vehicle

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

Day 52: Bulawayo to Victoria Falls

Today we head to Victoria Falls - 'Mosi-Oa-Tunya', 'the smoke that thunders'. The Falls provide breathtaking views of sheer drops and raging waters. Mists from the Falls rise metres into the air and have given rise to a lush tropical rainforest along the rim.

Distance: 438 km

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

Meals: X1 Breakfast

Included activity: Visit to Great Zimbabwe with guided tour.

Day 53: Victoria Falls

We spend our last few days camped at a backpackers within walking distance to the Victoria Falls. Here you can select and arrange many activities: take a flight by microlight or helicopter over the Falls known as 'The Flight of the Angels', or enter the National Park and stop at the different viewing areas of the incredible falls. For the adrenaline junkies you can bungee from the bridge, gorge swing and get wet white water rafting in the Zambezi. There are lots of fun bars and restaurants to try, or enjoy "High Tea" at the Victoria Falls Hotel with warthog grazing on the lawn.

Distance: 0 kms

Est. Drive Time: 0 hours

Meals: None

Note this safari can finish in Victoria Falls on either side of the Zambezi River in Livingstone, Zambia or Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe. Do note extra visa and transfer costs apply if you need to cross the river to fly out.

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 safari plans. We look forward to your further enquiries.

Other Information

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Gorilla trekking

On your trip we travel to south west Uganda to stay in Kabale and from there travel to the gorilla parks for

those who wish to trek the mountain gorillas. We book the gorilla permits for your safari ahead of time to visit Bwindi National Park, or alternatively Mgahinga NP, depending on availability.

A few things to note about your gorilla trek

Trekking the gorillas is without doubt the highlight of most passengers' safari and on average 30 to 40 people trek successfully with us each month in the gorilla parks. In order to protect the gorillas only eight people trek to see them at a time and so as to assist you and avoid difficulties at the parks, gorilla permits are booked and paid for in advance. Our aim is always to get booking slots back to back to avoid delays and so the group has the best possible itinerary. Do be aware permit availability can become very difficult and permits are in high demand. Delays in procuring permits can have an impact on the itinerary so we need to buy permits for your safari well in advance.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Zanzibar Island

As part of your safari we offer the option to go over to exotic Zanzibar Island for a 4-night stay in bed and breakfast accommodation, one night in a lodge in the traditional ancient capital, Stone Town, then three

nights on the beach in beach bungalows to the north of the island. We also organise a spice tour which provides a fun and fascinating glimpse of the history of the island, visiting the ruins of the Maharubi palace and plantations where exclusive fruits and spices are grown, the island's history being based around the spice trade. Otherwise the time on the Island is yours to relax, enjoy the beach, warm waters, and fresh seafood. There is a scuba diving centre beside the bungalows and snorkeling is also easily arranged from here.

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

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. Gorilla permit
5. Zanzibar Island stay
6. Insurance
7. Equipment
8. Visas/Entry Requirements needed prior to departure

Step off the plane in Africa with...

9. Spending money – this is very individual and often depends on how much you drink. A suggested budget would be 1,100 - 1,300 USD.
10. Local payment – 1,000 USD .
11. Optional excursions – The average amount people usually spend who are wanting to do most optionals on the trip is between 600 - 1,100 USD (Please see pages 20-21 for the current options available).
12. Visas on the ground: Up to 185 USD depending on nationality
13. Pre and Post safari costs

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

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

How do I take this money to Africa?

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

USD cash

We are finding clients find it most convenient to take approximately 1,900 - 2,100 USD cash on this trip. This includes money for your local payment, visa payments, some optionals and occasionally to buy local currency when you can't get to a bank or forex bureau, assuming you are also carrying some sterling or

euro cash to use for purchasing local currency for spending money as well.

Please note that in general USD notes need to be dated post 2009 and in good condition. When arranging your USD cash a range of denominations is probably the most convenient including a few 5 USD and 10 USD notes as well as 20s, 50s and 100s.

Please do have suitable notes organised to pay the exact amount for your local payment if at all possible. Your local payment is payable on day one of the trip.

Pounds and Euro cash

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

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

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

When you arrive in Nairobi you should change up enough money into Kenyan shillings to cover all our personal needs, such as accommodation, transfers and meals, including breakfast for the first day before you meet the truck.

As you spend about a week in Kenya and sterling and euro can attract good rates at times we would strongly recommend you change up 100 GBP/EUR at Nairobi airport when you arrive if your money is currently in sterling or euro. Otherwise change the equivalent in USD.

When you land in Nairobi there are a couple of banks on the right just before you come to Customs at Nairobi airport.

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.

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

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

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

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

For your information the currencies you will meet are:

| | |
|----------|---------------------|
| Kenya | Kenyan shillings |
| Uganda | Ugandan shillings |
| Rwanda | Rwandan francs |
| Tanzania | Tanzanian shillings |
| Malaw | Malawi kwacha |
| Zambia | Zambian kwacha |

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

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

What we cover from the price and local payment?

GAME DRIVES IN SEVEN OF AFRICA'S BIG GAME PARKS AS WELL AS OTHER WILDLIFE RESERVES AND HIGHLIGHT incl.

- The Masai Mara
- The Serengeti
- Ngorongoro Crater
- Matopos National Park with a rhino trek
- South Luangwa National Park
- Nakuru National Park
- Mburu National Park
- The Grumeti Game Reserve
- Mikumi National Park
- The Giraffe Park
- Sheldrick's elephant orphanage
- A boat ride in Mburu
- Lake Naivasha
- Lake Victoria
- Bujagali

WE ALSO INCLUDE

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

CAMPING, BREAKFAST & DINNER WHILST TRAVELLING ON THE TRUCK i.e.

- 45 breakfasts & 44 dinners whilst travelling on the truck including some pre-prepared bbqs and local meals.
- 45 nights camping and 3 nights dorm accommodation in a lodge or similar

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- Flights including taxes
- Optional excursions as listed
- Pre and post tour Add Ons as well as airport transfers and accommodation
- Lunch and drinks throughout, as well as breakfast and dinner when the truck parks up at Jinja, Dar es Salaam and Victoria Falls
- Camping costs if not participating in an overnight excursion ie Zanzibar Island (4 nights) and Lake Kariba Houseboats (2 nights)
- Other incidentals including for tips, internet use, upgrades from camping and the occasional cheap excursion such as local walks
- Visas

- Extra equipment including sleeping bag, torch and medical kit
- Personal travel insurance
- Vaccinations and anti malarials as required

Remember to carry the recommended spending money to ensure you have enough to cover for these times.

Personal spending money

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

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

Some weeks you will spend more and other weeks less. The current recommendation to carry as personal spending money for this safari is 1,100 - 1,300 USD. Allow an extra 30 USD a week approximately if you think you might want to occasionally upgrade your accommodation to stay in chalets, which are available at some campsites.

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

Regularly 'smallish' optional activities such as village walks also arise costing under 20 USD, and these also will be covered by this spending money. Alternatively some clients like to buy a T-shirt at Livingstone or one of the many activities you might try or a DVD of 'the big day out' - white water rafting or gorge swinging. Victoria Falls is also one of the places where the local restaurants offer huge variety and after weeks on the road are too tempting to miss.

Tipping: You may like to consider tips for good service, particularly at some of the big highlights such as after your gorilla trek, Ngorongoro Crater, the houseboats at Lake Kariba for example. You may find that you may like to organise this as a group or individually.

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

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

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

Optional activities

These excursions are paid for in Africa with the exception of the gorilla permit and the Zanzibar Island stay, which is booked and paid for in advance in London if you wish to do this option. 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 US\$ (cash). A few may be payable in local currencies. (Prices correct as of August 2024)

KENYA

Staying by Lake Naivasha

- | | |
|--|--------|
| • Hells Gate National Park half day cycle trip | 55 USD |
| • Crater Lake Sanctuary walk | 45 USD |
| • Elsamere for afternoon tea 1050 KES | 12 USD |
| • Hippo boat cruise | 30 USD |

UGANDA

Jinja and the White Nile

| | |
|--|---------|
| White Water rafting packages | |
| Whitewater rafting on the White Nile (full day 30 km) grade 5 rapids with breakfast, light lunch, dinner, sodas and beers | 140 USD |
| Whitewater rafting on the White Nile (half day) | 115 USD |
| Extreme Rafting | 160 USD |
| Full day rafting/river board trip | 160 USD |
| Combos | |
| Raft and cruise | 160 USD |
| Extreme raft and cruise | 180 USD |
| Tandem kayak and cruise | 180 USD |
| Riverboard and cruise | 180 USD |
| SUP (Stand up paddle boarding) rental per hour | 15 USD |
| 2 hour Bujagali SUP tour | 40 USD |
| Nile Sup ½ day guided trip | 95 USD |
| Source of the Nile lunch cruise | 30 USD |
| Nile sunset cruise with snacks/drinks | 45 USD |
| Bungee jump - 44 metres over the Nile river | 95 USD |
| Quad bike safaris | |
| Quad biking (1 hour) | 49 USD |
| Quad biking (2 hours) | 79 USD |
| Quad biking (3 hours) | 99 USD |
| Quad biking (4 hours) | 119 USD |
| Quad biking (3 ½ hours, twilight with meal) | 89 USD |
| Horse back safaris | |
| Horse riding - 1 hour | 40 USD |
| Horse riding - 1.5 hours | 50 USD |
| 1.5 hours – Sunset | 60 USD |
| Horse riding - 2 hours | 60 USD |
| Horse riding - 3 hours | 80 USD |
| Mountain bikes ½ day freedom rental | 15 USD |
| 2-4 hour guided tour to Bugembe viewpoint | 45 USD |
| 4 hour guided tour of Mabira Forest | 60 USD |
| Nile kayaking | |
| Tandem kayaking | 160 USD |
| Kayak school - Half day introduction | 95 USD |
| Kayak school - Full day introduction | 125 USD |
| <i>At Ziwa rhino sanctuary</i> | |
| Rhino trekking | 30 USD |
| Shoebill canoe ride | 30 USD |
| Birding walk | 30 USD |
| Nature walk | 20 USD |
| Kalinzu Forest Chimpanzee trek | 130 USD |

At the gorillas

Please note as you pay for your permit in advance you only need to pay for your transport costs. These are dependent on road conditions. Remember to also budget for a tip if you wish.

| | |
|--|-----------------------|
| Transport to the gorilla trek start point p/p | From 40 USD |
| Suggested tip for your gorilla guide | 10 USD |
| Golden monkeys entrance | 90 USD |
| Transport to Golden Monkeys | 50 USD/vehicle |
| Orphanage visit transport | 10 USD |
| Batwa village visit - visiting a tribe in their relocated village, inc. transport, minimum number 3 people | Currently unavailable |
| Sunset canoe trekking – Lake Mutanda | 10 USD |
| Coffee tour | 35 USD |

RWANDA

| | |
|---|-----------------|
| • Genocide Memorial and Museum | Free |
| • - Audio Guide | 25 USD |
| • Dian Fossey's grave | 100 USD |
| • Transport to Dian Fossey's grave | 100 USD/vehicle |
| • Banana beer making (price dependent on numbers) | 13 - 35 USD |
| • Basket weaving (price dependent on numbers) | 14 - 30 USD |

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

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 |
| • From North | from \$40 - \$160 |

MALAWI

| | |
|--|-------------|
| • Scuba Diving Lake Malawi – introductory course | 45 USD |
| • Scuba diving – 2 qualified dives | 90 USD |
| • Scuba Diving – night dive | 55 USD |
| • Canoe rental | 15 USD |
| • Pedalo boat | 25 USD/hr |
| • Snorkelling | 20 USD |
| • Boat ride to Island (Min 4 people) | from 10 USD |

ZAMBIA

| | |
|----------------------------------|--------|
| • South Luangwa extra game drive | 45 USD |
| • Walking safari | 53 USD |

ZIMBABWE

- Lake Kariba Houseboats for two nights 170 USD
- Fishing including park fees, rod, bair, hooks & sinkers 20 USD

- Extension to full day, Matopos National Park 45 USD

Victoria Falls by the Zambezi

- Victoria Falls Entrance 50 USD

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

White water rafting packages

- Whitewater rafting full day low water only 120 USD
- Whitewater rafting, half day high water only 120 USD
- Rafting DVD 30 USD

Gorge activities

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

Bungee Jumping

- Bungee Jump (111 metres - 3rd highest commercial bungee in the world) 168 USD
- Bridge swing 168 USD
- Tandem bridge swing 276 USD
- Bridge slide 50 USD
- Tandem bridge slide 72 USD

- Village tour (includes return transfers from Victoria Falls, aprox 3 hrs) 60 USD
- Elephant encounter 142 USD

Flights

- "Flight of the Angels" over Victoria Falls: Depending on time in the air and type of craft -
- Microlite (Zambia) 15 mins 185 USD
- Helicopter 15 mins (Zim side) 150 USD
- Helicopter Zambezi Spectacular 25 mins (Zim side) 309 USD

Zambezi River Cruises

- Sundowner cruise (inc transfer,full bar and snacks) 50 USD
- Dinner downer cruise (inc transfers,full bar, snacks and 3 course dinner) 103 USD

Horse back safaris

- Horse Rides - Novice, 2 hours 145 USD
- Horse Rides - Experienced, 2 hours 145 USD

Adventure Jetboat

126 USD

Combo Packages

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

Upper Zambezi Canoeing

- Zambezi drift - incl. transfers, b'fast, drinks and park fees (7am-2.30 pm) 150 USD
- Zambian day visa (if required) 20 USD

- Devils Pool (incl breakfast) 110 USD
- Devils Pool (incl lunch) 175 USD
- Devils Pool (incl high tea) 150 USD

*subject to availability and season

**visa for Zambia and transfers not included

Further information in regards to optional excursions and spending money

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

What do I need to bring?

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

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

Do remember 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 needs.

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

You need to bring:

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

Other items to consider

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

Essential camping equipment

- Sleeping bag and sheet
- Eating utensils, including cutlery, cup, plate/bowl
- Torch and batteries, a head torch being the most useful
- Mosquito repellent (DEET) Up to 3 bottles 50% solution
- Insect repellent spray
- High-factor sun block cream
- Lip salve/Chap Stick
- Padlock
- Small personal medical kit including: anti-malarials, vitamin tablets, paracetamol, antibiotic powder, Band-Aids, cotton wool, sterile gloves, flu medication for coughs, colds and sinuses, rehydration salts, sports injury cream for sprains, an antihistamine, immodium, treatment for tummy bugs, stings/bites and sunburn and eye drops. If you wear contact lenses you are advised to carry disposables

Other items

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

- Concentrated travel washing liquid or washing powder, clothes line
- Emergency sewing kit
- Tweezers, nail scissors, nail brush
- You will probably find it worthwhile to pick up a cheap blanket once you arrive

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

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

The two most common gynecological problems that may occur whilst 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
- Mossie net impregnated with permethrin or similar if you want to sleep out of your tent at any time on safari, particularly in the warmer months (tents have in-built mossie nets at door and openings)

Electrical items

- Mobile phone
Text messaging can be a good way to stay in touch with the outside world. Remember if you are on international roaming the charges will be very high to make and receive phone calls. If communication is very important to you, sim cards can be purchased very cheaply on the road. Some clients have their phone unlocked before arriving in Africa whilst coverage is not always good on this tour.
- Smartphone/Music player including headphones if you want to listen to your own music
- Camera in a protective case and spare memory card(s)
- For SLR cameras we recommend a telephoto of 120 mm (or similar) or an 80-200 mm zoom
- 2 camera batteries, including a new one
- 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 realise anything white will not stay that way, bush colours being recommended. Women should dress 'modestly' respecting the sensibilities and attitudes of the people and countries they are visiting.

- 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 as travelling in Africa is very hard on clothes.

Conditions day to day are rough and belongings do get dusty and can get damaged. Do also realise any white clothing won't stay that way. Soft bush colours are most suitable. Being able to layer clothing that can be removed easily is wise as the day heats up. This also helps to keep valuables inconspicuous. Clothes with zip and velcro pockets are sensible. Due to the bumpy road conditions women are advised to bring at least one sports bra. Women should dress 'modestly' respecting the sensibilities and attitudes of the people and countries they are visiting. This is of particular importance for your stay on Zanzibar. Note as well that G String bikini bottoms can cause embarrassment and concern in some regions of southern Africa.

Be aware that camouflage clothing should be avoided.

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

On safari do follow all instructions given by your safari leader as to how to use equipment, move around on, 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. Please also follow all washing and cleaning procedures carefully to avoid infections being spread.

It is essential in order to keep to schedules that you listen at group meetings to know what is happening and when, on the following day. Please follow all instructions carefully in regard to border crossings. Most trucks will carry an information folder with information as to what is happening for the next few days. For the group to function well you do need to keep yourself informed about upcoming arrangements. Group meetings are essential to help the group work together.

On a day to day 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 safaris, 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 will 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 own 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 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 buying your water do check that the bottles are sealed. We would also advise you, though, to bring some water purification tablets.

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

On the road there is always a lot to see but you may also 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 to 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.

It is a participation trip and part of your everyday routine will be to put up your own tent and be involved in all the daily chores 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 a 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 is very limited though, and you need to be considerate of everyone else on the truck. Do budget accordingly if you might wish to upgrade once or twice en route.

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

You will find that 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 on these nights and enjoy the chance to camp out in the wild.

Please remember when leaving a campsite that 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 to face. Do be responsible as you travel.

Sickness

All our trucks have a medical kit, which has been put together by tropical expedition specialists for emergency use only. The foreign embassies throughout Africa provide English-speaking doctors for emergency situations.

If you do become ill, we will transport you as soon as possible to the nearest health clinic and your crew will do all they can to assist. You will always have a friendly escort.

Meals and cooking on the truck

Day to day meals are prepared from the truck using both the non-perishable supplies bought 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 providing 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 are spaghetti and pasta dishes, stir fries, cottage pies, kebabs, curries, stews and casseroles, hamburgers or jacket potatoes, which are then complemented with rice and/or salads. Breakfast is usually fruit, muesli and/or other cereals, toast, as well as some regular cooked breakfasts like eggs, bacon, baked beans or pancakes. During the trip we often also arrange to cook a spit-roast pig or goat or alternatively do a hangi, which is usually a project in itself...!

There are also a few pre-arranged meals booked ahead of time so the whole group can relax in the evenings in the knowledge that someone else is doing the cooking. This frees up the itinerary so you can enjoy a little more of Africa. We use these opportunities to enjoy a couple of traditional local meals on safari and also arrange a seafood buffet so the group can experience seafood fresh from the Indian Ocean. We also can contribute in part to a final buffet meal together at Victoria Falls.

Specialist diets

For vegetarians we do everything possible to ensure a good supply of veggies, salads, fruit, beans, pasta and rice. The daily diet leans towards vegetarian as fresh quality meat is not easily accessed every day. The staples are beans, pasta, 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 fruit, 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 and can 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 soy milk, 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

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

Personal safety

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

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

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

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

Truck security

Your truck will have a lockable safe in which to keep your passport and valuables. You will also have a lockable place on the truck to keep your day bag. Your backpack is stored underneath the truck. The truck is never left unattended. Do be aware on safari you will be required in certain locations to assist with watching that all is safe and secure with other passengers.

Please note that whilst all precautions will be taken in regards to valuables left on the vehicle, we cannot be held responsible for any damage or loss from the vehicle.

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

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

Photography

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

Trading, donating and supporting

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

Please be aware that 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.

Problems or issues you may have while on the tour

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

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

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

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

General code of conduct

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

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

Day to day be sensitive and aware of how you and your group are being perceived by those around you. Be alert to where you are, sensitive when taking photos, aware of how much noise we are making, careful of how you are dressed. Everyone wants to have the best time possible in Africa and there are plenty of chances to have a trip of a lifetime. Excessive noise, obscenities and inappropriate behaviour cannot be tolerated - we need to show respect for the places we visit and the people we meet en route. 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 the Safari Leader can step in and will remove you from the trip. Don't spoil your trip or someone else's trip.

Keeping in touch

It can be quite difficult and also expensive to stay 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. If your family needs to get in touch in an emergency, they should contact the Absolute office and we will do all we can to assist.

Email – You will be able to access email in Arusha, Zanzibar, Lilongwe, Lusaka and Victoria Falls. 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 go missing in the post.

If you do 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 to you, the Absolute office should be contacted for further advice.

Language

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

The Migration

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The Great Migration

The migration covers over 3,000 kilometers on the combined stage of the Serengeti and Masai Mara plains. It is a constant movement of 2.5 million animals and may well be the highlight of your safari! (Depending on 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: <http://www.absoluteafrica.com/The-Migration>

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

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

ABSOLUTE AFRICA



| 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 | Reintroduced | Reintroduced | Reintroduced | Reintroduced | Reintroduced | Reintroduced | Reintroduced | Reintroduced | Reintroduced | Reintroduced | Reintroduced | 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 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 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 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Gerenuk | 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

Reading List

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

26th August 2024