

Flight of the Flamingos Safari

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 Flight of the Flamingos

Depart Johannesburg	Finish Nairobi	Price	Local Payment
11 Jul 2020	06 Sep 2020	£2,560	US\$930
24 Oct 2020	20 Dec 2020	£2,560	US\$930
16 Jan 2021	14 Mar 2021	£2,560	US\$930
31 Jul 2021	26 Sep 2021	£2,560	US\$930
30 Aug 2021	26 Oct 2021	£2,560	US\$930
16 Jan 2022	14 Mar 2022	£2,560	US\$930
22 May 2022	18 Jul 2022	£2,560	US\$930

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

Highlights: Kruger National Park • Khama Rhino Sanctuary • Chobe National Park game drive • Game cruise • Victoria Falls • Sunset cruise • whitewater rafting on the Zambezi • Flights over the Falls • Bungee jump • Gorge swing • Painted Dog Conservation Centre • Hwange National Park • South Luangwa National Park • Lake Malawi • Horse riding • Fishing village visit and traditional dancing • The Rift Valley • Zanzibar Island • Red colobus monkey trek • Dolphin boat cruise • Prison Island and the giant tortoise • Mnemba Atoll • Snorkelling and scuba diving • Maasai boma visit • Ngorongoro Crater • Serengeti National Park • Grumeti Reserve • Batwa (pygmy) village • Orphanage visit • Dian Fossey's Grave • Golden monkey trek • Mountain gorilla trek • Genocide Memorial and Museum Park • Queen Elizabeth National Park • Chimpanzee

trek • Ziwa Rhino Sanctuary • Volunteer in a village school • Kayaking • Whitewater rafting on the White Nile • Quad biking • Nakuru National Park • Lake Naivasha • Hells Gate National Park • Crater Lake Sanctuary • Maasai village visit incl. bush walk • Masai Mara for two nights

Safari structure: This safari begins in Johannesburg, the city of gold, and finishes in Nairobi, the capital of Kenya. This gives you the opportunity to visit some of the big highlights of East and Southern Africa, including the gorillas, Victoria Falls, the Maasai Mara and Zanzibar Island. The safaris are made up of components and on this group trip you might also meet travellers with more or less time who will travel with you for longer or for shorter sections of the route. Please feel free to contact us for further details.

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Flights

When arranging your flights we suggest that you arrive the day before your safari begins.

Return flights should be arranged to depart no earlier than the day after your safari is scheduled to end.

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 something known as 'open jaw' flights. These allow you to fly into one destination and out of another. If searching online these are often called multi city or multi stop tickets.

Several airlines fly into Johannesburg and out of Nairobi including British Airways, Kenya Airways, KLM/Air France, Virgin, Emirates and SAA.

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

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

Insurance

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

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

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 white water rafting on grade 5 rapids, scuba diving, trekking Kilimanjaro, volunteer work, lion walks, tandem sky diving and bungee jumping.

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

Remember when 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

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Your passport needs to be valid for at least 6 months after your trip finishes. Ensure also that you have enough pages in your passport for each country you visit. As a guide then, for the Flight of the Flamingos you will need to have a minimum of 9 blank pages (sides).

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

Visas for most passport holders including British, Australian, New Zealand, Irish, South African, German, French, Dutch, Canadian and American passport holders can be arranged in Africa en route.

The East Africa visa is U\$100 for all passports and this must be purchased before travelling by applying to Rwanda. This will give entry to Rwanda, Uganda and Kenya. We will forward details to you to help you with this visa. Below is an estimation of current visa requirements and their cost:

Passport	South Africa	Zimbabwe	Zambia	Malawi	Tanzania	Rwanda	Ug.	Kenya	No of Visas	Total Cost \$US
Australian	-	\$30	\$50	\$75	\$50	\$100	-	-	5	\$305
New Zealand	Apply in advance	\$30	\$50	\$75	\$50	\$100	-	-	6	\$305 + SA visa cost
South African	-	-	-	-	-	\$100	-	-	1	\$100
Canadian		\$75	\$50	\$75	\$50	\$100	-	-	5	\$350
American		\$30	\$50	\$75	\$100	\$100	-	-	5	\$355
British		\$55	\$50	\$75	\$50	\$100	-	-	4	\$330
German		\$30	\$50	\$75	\$50	\$100	-	-	4	\$305
Dutch		\$30	\$50	\$75	\$50	\$100	-	-	4	\$305
Irish		\$55	-	-	\$100	\$100	-	-	3	\$255
French		\$30	\$50	\$75	\$50	\$100	-	-	5	\$305

Visas are not normally required for most passport holders entering South Africa and Botswana.

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 notice. The information above 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. For more information on visas, check out www.projectvisa.com

Pre and post safari information

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The Flight of the Flamingos Safari departs from Backpackers Connection in Johannesburg at 7.00 am on the departure date.

We can reserve accommodation for you prior to departure in Johannesburg at Backpackers Connection.

Accommodation options

BACKPACKERS CONNECTION

If you arrive in Johannesburg by the evening prior to departure we recommend you stay at Backpackers Connection, which has dorm accommodation as well as private rooms. It has a bar/pub and a self-catering kitchen, a TV lounge and a swimming pool. It is located on a large property 8km from the airport terminal, safely tucked away on the outskirts of the city centre, close to restaurants, pubs, markets, shopping malls and other amenities.

Rooms available are:

Dorm	200 Rand per person
Twin Safari Classic Tent (own shower)	350 Rand per room
Twin/Double Room (shared bathroom)	450 Rand per room
Twin/Double Room (en-suite bathroom)	550 Rand per room

Airport pick up is 130 ZAR per person.

The exchange rate at time of writing is approx 1 USD = 16 ZAR (June 2020)

Arrive early there is a lot to do in and around Johannesburg and further afield.

Garden Route

We also run an Add-On Safari along the Garden Route from Cape Town to Johannesburg, visiting all the main highlights including white shark dives, the bungee, Cango Caves and the ostrich farm. Details can be found @ www.absoluteafrica.com/summary.lasso?trip_code=GR16.

For those already booked on the Flight of the Flamingos we offer a special price for this add on safari, £1145.00. Limited places available so do contact us for further details.

Soweto Township half day tour

Visit South Africa's most famous township, for insights into a place much mentioned in 1980s news bulletins for funerals and fighting, but into a way of life most Westerners rarely encounter. Price approx £42pp(R800)

Lion Park Half Day Tour

Established as a breeding unit, the Lion Park now boasts over 45 lions in four prides. These lions are bred for return to the wild or sold to zoos throughout the world. The Lion Park also has a very rare white male lion, which can be viewed on the drive through the enclosures. As well as the majestic lions, you have the opportunity to see other game such as zebra, wildebeest, springbok, ostrich and much more. Price approx £95 pp / £63 pp sharing (R1800 / R1200)

Ultimate Johannesburg Tour

Visit the top of the highest building in the continent – for a splendid view of the city. Tour Constitution Hill –

formerly the site for prisons and courts, now an area of museums and history. Look around the Apartheid Museum. Head to Soweto and visit Visit the Hector Pieterse Museum, Mandela House (optional) and the Regina Mundi Church . Price approx £63pp (R1200)

Apartheid Museum (closed Mondays)

Price approx £6pp (R95) Entrance only. Taxi transfer required.

Pilanesberg National Park

Right next door to Sun City, see the 'Big Five' in their natural habitat in one of South Africa's most beautiful Game Parks. Situated on a volcano, Pilanesberg was initially a farm, but its unique eco-system made it perfect for a game park. In 1976 animals were brought in from all over Southern Africa, and the effect has been stupendous. See it for yourself! Price approx £137pp (R2595)

Lesedi Cultural Village Half Day Tour

The Lesedi Cultural Village gives you the unique opportunity of experiencing four African Cultures in one place – Xhosa, Zulu, Pedi and Sotho. Starting with an interactive video covering the history of each of the tribes, you are then taken on a tour of the four villages; the guide will explain why each one is built differently according to customs and climate. Experience and participate in the singing and dancing, from traditional times through to the mining era. Then enjoy a sumptuous buffet meal of Tribal Food and game meats, before returning to Jo'burg. Price approx £105pp / £74pp sharing (R1995 / R1400)

Cradle of Humankind Half Day Tour

Visit the Sterkfontein caves, a world heritage site to learn some of the most important discoveries concerning the evolution of mankind. Visit the Maropeng visitor's centre - an exciting, world-class exhibition, focusing on the development of humans and our ancestors over the past few million years. Maropeng means "returning to the place of origin" in Setswana, the main indigenous language in this area of South Africa. Our ancestors have lived in this area for more than 3-million years. Price approx £105pp / £74 pp sharing (R1995 / R1400)

Departing Johannesburg

On the departure date, we will leave from Backpackers Connection, Johannesburg, at 7.00 am.

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

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

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

Important pre-safari details

Please return your form including your hotel and transfer needs to the office 10 weeks before departure. If you will not be able to make it to Johannesburg for the afternoon prior to departure please contact us as soon as possible.

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

Flight departure

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

Arriving in O.R. Tambo International Airport, Johannesburg

At the airport, the signs are in English and there is also a bank open for international arrivals.

The international airport in Johannesburg is situated approx 8 km from Backpackers Connection.

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, do let us know using the previously mentioned form.

You should change up enough money into South African Rand for what you need until you meet the truck or can next get to a bank. Do remember you need to pay for any meals you will have before the trip starts, including breakfast for the morning of the departure, as well as any accommodation and transfers prior to departure.

At the end of your safari

The Flight of the Flamingos safari finishes in Nairobi. We have the last two days in the city and go out for dinner together and camp together the final night. Talk with your crew if you need a taxi booked for the your onward journey. We can book extra nights accommodation if required.

THE HERON PORTICO HOTEL

Rooms have 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 in the price.

Prices for The Heron Portico Hotel are:

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

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

When checking in to The Heron, please inform reception that you are staying with Absolute Africa. Cancellation penalties apply for 'no show'. Cancellation penalties apply for 'no show' unless 24 hours notice is given.

Alternatively Wildebeest Eco Camp offers slightly cheaper accommodation.

WILDEBEEST ECO CAMP

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

Wildebeest is payable in KES, Euros or USD, or by credit card. Card payments attract a 5% charge.

The camp has a restaurant, bar, internet and lockers in the dorms. Breakfast is served from 7.00am. Showers are usually hot.

Prices for the Wildebeest Camp are:

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

All prices are inclusive of breakfast.

Wildebeest Eco Camp 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 depending on the exchange rate on the day.

Other options to consider with your overland safari

Climb Kilimanjaro

Kilimanjaro is a short flight or shuttle journey from Nairobi. We offer a variety of Kilimanjaro Treks to trek to the 'roof of Africa', Kilimanjaro, along the most popular and the more obscure routes using experienced local guides. For further details please contact us.

Beach Stays on the Kenyan Coast

Leave a few days at the end of your safari to unwind on the white beaches of the Kenyan coast. Price from U\$22 pppn in simple beach tree huts. Please contact us for further details.

Nairobi National Park

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

Price: On request

Health and immunisation

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Prior to departure it is essential that you contact a specialist travel medical clinic such as Nomads Traveller Store and Medical Centre in London or a similar professional travel medical company to get the latest recommendations for travel in Africa.

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

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

You may also like to check out the following websites:

www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk

www.dh.gov.uk

Suggested travel clinics in the United Kingdom

Nomad Travel Stores and Clinics

Tel: 01341 555 061

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

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

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

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

www.traveldoctor.com.au/

www.traveldoctor.co.nz

www.traveldoctor.co.za

There are travel clinics in many of the big centres in Australia, New Zealand and South Africa, as well as in

Thailand, Singapore, Hanoi, Bali and Nadi.

Suggested Immunisation Requirements (This is only a guide!)

The immunisations usually suggested for this safari are:

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

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

The choices usually suggested are:

Larium, taken x 1 a week

Doxycycline, taken x 1 a day

Malarone, taken x 1 a day

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

As well as your anti-malarials, you will need to bring a number of other medical items in a simple Personal Medical Kit. Medical kits can usually be bought at travel clinics. Alternatively lists as to the types of items you are advised to carry can be found in the “What do I need to bring?” section on page 23.

General information on avoiding malaria

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

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

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

Other medical issues

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

You are advised also that the waterborne bilharzia parasite is present in many bodies of fresh water in Africa including sections of Lake Malawi. Bilharzia can be serious. Once diagnosed it is treatable but of course it is best to avoid getting infected. We recommend that, on your return home, you have a medical

check-up, including a blood test particularly to check for bilharzia.

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.

Flight of the Flamingos itinerary

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Days 1 - 3: Johannesburg, South Africa, to Kruger National Park

We leave Johannesburg, “the city of gold” to head northeast to South Africa’s most prized game reserve, Kruger National Park.

We have a full day of game drives to explore in the park for our first experience of Africa’s fabulous wild animals. One of Africa’s largest parks, Kruger, is home to 147 mammals including the Big 5 – elephant, rhino, buffalo, leopard and lion. There is also a tremendous diversity of reptiles and bird life in the park with 502 recorded bird species including vultures, eagles, carmine bee-eaters, rollers and storks.

We also visit Blyde River Canyon, the third largest canyon in the world with its spectacular viewpoints including the Three Rondavels and God’s Window.

Distance: 570 kms

Est. Drive Time: 11 hours Incl. stops for lunch & shopping

Meals: X2 Breakfasts, X3 Dinners

Included wildlife activity: Full day of game drives, Kruger National Park

Vehicle used for game drive: Overland truck

Days 4 – 5: Kruger National Park to Khama Rhino Sanctuary, Botswana

Over two days we make our way to our next highlight in the second country of our trip, Botswana.

We arrive at Khama Rhino Sanctuary on day five.

Based in the Kalahari Sandveld, the sanctuary was set up in 1992 to restore the area’s depleted wildlife. It is now home to black and white rhino as well as 30 other animal species and over 230 bird species. Here you can opt for a rhino trek and night drives are also available.

Distance over two days: 739 kms

Est. Drive Time, Day 4: +/- 10 hours (depending on the border). Incl. stops for lunch & shopping

Est. Drive Time, Day 5: 2 hours

Meals: X2 Breakfasts, X2 Dinners

Included wildlife activity: Entry to Khama Rhino Sanctuary

Optional Excursions: Rhino trek, night game drive

Days 6 - 7: Khama Rhino Sanctuary to Chobe National Park, Kasane

The following day we continue our journey north to Nata, travelling on the edge of the Makgadikgadi Pans. We stop for a night in Nata before continuing to the town of Kasane for shopping and then onto our campsite on the banks of the Chobe River.

Distance over two days: 700 kms

Est. Drive Time, Day 6: 7 - 8 hours Incl. lunch stop

Est. Drive Time, Day 7: 5 - 6 hours

Meals: X2 Breakfasts, X2 Dinners

Day 8: Chobe National Park, Kasane

We are in for another special treat with a game cruise in Chobe National Park today, another of Africa’s special game parks. The wonderful Chobe River creates the northern border of the park and acts as

a magnet to attract a multitude of wildlife species, and the park is particularly famous for its elephant population believed to be up to an estimated 120,000 elephants. During the cruise elephant can be seen “messaging about” in the water as only elephant can do, both in and by the river. There is an excellent chance of also seeing hippo and crocodile and thirsty game such as giraffe, zebra, waterbuck and impala come to the river bank to drink.

Time is also set aside for the option of an early morning game drive to travel deep into Chobe with a local guide in an open safari vehicle to maximize your chances of getting the most from this beautiful game park. Chobe also has a large lion population, a migrating zebra population, large herds of buffalo, and leopards might be seen here.

Distance: 0 kms

Est. Drive Time: 0 hours

Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Dinner

Included wildlife activity: Game cruise on the Chobe River, Chobe National Park
Conducted in open cruise vessel

Optional excursion: Morning game drive, Chobe National Park

Day 9: Kasane to Hwange National Park, Zimbabwe

Leaving Botswana behind we head to our next big highlight – Hwange National Park, the largest game reserve in Zimbabwe. We head out on an afternoon game drive with an expert professional guide in open safari vehicles. There is also the option of an extra game drives, including evening game drives if you wish to see a little more.

Hwange is known for its elephant and hyena population and also boasts many wildlife favourites, including wild or “painted” dogs. A visit to the Painted Dog Conservation Centre based at the park is also arranged during our visit. The painted dog, or African wild dog, recognisable by its mickey mouse ears, is very rare and is in danger of extinction. It is believed there are currently only about 1,400 mature wild dogs left in the wild.

Distance: 260 kms

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

Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Dinner

Included wildlife activity: Game drives in Hwange National Park

Vehicle for game drive: Open 4x4 safari vehicle

Optional excursion: Extra game drive, Hwange National Park.

Days 10 - 12: Hwange National Park to Victoria Falls

We arrive late afternoon day 10 to Victoria Falls town, set right by the mighty waterfalls. The Victoria Falls are one of the wonders of the natural world. The spray from the crashing water can be seen rising into the air from miles around and they are aptly called locally Mosi oa Tunya, ‘the smoke which thunders’.

Spend time to enjoy the rainforest walk by the Falls for spectacular views over the waterfalls. The craft markets in town offer a great chance to practice your haggling skills for some souvenirs or gifts. Many enjoy high tea at the Victoria Falls Hotel.

This popular, vibrant town also offers a wide range of activities based on both the upper and lower Zambezi River, from canoeing and river cruises to white water rafting, and other adrenalin activities such as the bungee jump, gorge swing, flying fox and zip line.

Distance, Day 10: 174 kms

Est. Drive Time, Day 10: 5.5 hours incl. lunch stop

Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Dinner

Optional excursions: White water rafting, river boarding, bungee jumping, gorge swing, rap jump, ‘Flight of the Angels’, canoe trips, horse riding, sundowner cruise.

Day 13: Victoria Falls to Lusaka

Crossing into Zambia, we head to the capital city of Lusaka. Here we have a chance to stop to catch up on emails, get to the bank and stock up on supplies in the supermarket.

Distance: 625 kms

Est. Drive Time: +/- 9 hours (depending on the border)

Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Dinner

Days 14 - 17: Lusaka to South Luangwa National Park

We now head towards one of Zambia's treasures – South Luangwa National Park, our fourth national park. On the way we stop off at a local textile shop to sample the wares and perhaps pick up a special piece, the special textile products showcasing a mix of traditional African art with contemporary design.

A fabulous amount of game concentrates around the Luangwa River and sightings regularly include elephant, hippo, giraffe, baboons and monkey to name just a few. This park too boasts strong lion and leopard populations.

A special feature of South Luangwa is the opportunity for an evening game drive with spotlights to see nocturnal wildlife such as leopard, bushbabies and genet whose stealth makes them a rare treat to spot.

Travelling to such a remote destination this is also a wonderful chance to experience rural Zambia. A game of football with the local kids is always fun. There is time to relax by the pool and enjoy the wonderful African bush surrounds, and there can be elephants through the campsite at night here as well.

Distance over two days: 560 kms

Est. Drive Time, Day 14: +/- 6 hours

Est. Drive Time, Day 15: +/- 6 hours Incl. a stop for lunch and shopping

Meals: X4 Breakfasts, X4 Dinners

Included wildlife activity: Game drive, South Luangwa National Park

Vehicle for game drive: Open 4x4 safari vehicle

Optional excursion: Evening game drive, South Luangwa National Park

Days 18 - 19: South Luangwa National Park to Kande, Malawi

Leaving Luangwa behind we cross another border into Malawi and head to our next camp by Lake Malawi, often called the "calendar lake". The lake is 365 miles long and 52 miles wide.

A long stretch of golden sand beach lapped by crystal clear waters makes for the perfect setting for a day to unwind under the blue skies of Africa. The lake supports the livelihood of numerous traditional fishing villages scattered along its shoreline. We arrange a village meal on arrival and the local children enjoy dancing and singing for us.

Horse rides along the beach are also popular activities to enjoy, and at the end of the trail the horses happily take to the lake for a swim ride. Kayaking, canoeing, snorkeling, diving and fishing trips are available, as well as beach volley ball.

Distance, Day 18: 600 kms

Est. Drive Time, Day 18: +/- 11 hours (depending on the border). Incl. stops for lunch & shopping

Meals: X2 Breakfasts, X2 Dinners

Optional excursions: Water sports, including snorkeling and scuba diving, canoeing and pedalo hire, horse riding, village walk.

Day 20: Kande to Chitimba

We beach hop to our next camp, Chitimba to enjoy another lakeside setting and an afternoon of watersports or a visit to the local village. Check out the curio markets displaying the skilled handiwork of local wood carvers, Malawi being well known for its wooden crafts, from the massive Malawi chairs and tall wooden giraffes to intricately carved chess boards and globes.

Distance: 235 kms

Est. Drive Time: +/- 5 hours
Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Dinner

Day 21: Chitimba to Iringa, Tanzania

Leaving Malawi behind, we cross the border into our sixth country, Tanzania.

Our journey takes us through the mountainous terrain of the southern end of the 40 million-year-old Great Rift Valley, a geological phenomena that stretches over 4,000 miles from the Middle East to Mozambique. Tonight's destination is a farmhouse campsite that serves a mean hot chocolate and chocolate brownies that are famous along the whole route.

Distance: 498 kms
Est. Drive Time: 11 hours (depending on the border & incl. lunch stop)
Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Dinner

Day 22: Iringa to Morogoro

Today we travel north east through Baobab Valley, past the Ruaha River and through Mikumi National Park where we regularly see giraffe, elephant, zebra and impala. We camp in Morogoro for the night.

Distance: 188 kms
Est. Drive Time: 4 - 5 hours
Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Dinner

Day 23: Morogoro to Dar es Salaam

Dar es Salaam, the largest city in Tanzania, is known as the 'city of peace'. It is also the gateway over to Zanzibar Island. The wind whispers in the coconut palms as the waters lap the white sands at our camp tonight, and we get ready for our optional trip to the island paradise of Zanzibar.

Distance: 321 kms
Est. Drive Time: approx. 10 hours Incl. stop for lunch
Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Dinner

Days 24 – 27: Optional stay on Zanzibar Island

This morning there is the option to head to the busy ferry port for the ferry crossing to Stone Town, the ancient capital of Zanzibar. The tour leader travels over to the island with the group to ensure that all runs smoothly during the island stay, and the core arrangements are booked well ahead of time so we are assured our groups will be comfortable in popular beach cottages on the island, as well as a lodge in Stone Town.

On arrival we make our way through the winding alleys and can check out the exquisitely carved doors. We enjoy lunch at a local cafe. We then head up the beach.

Pristine white sand and turquoise seas offer a postcard perfect view from the bar at our beach bungalows. Massages, manicures, pedicures, henna tattoos and more are available on the beach, while the dive centre next to the bar has a wide variety of boats trips and dive trips and courses, both scuba and snorkeling including to the coral waters of Mnemba Atoll. Trips too can be arranged to Prison Island. There is a small isolated group of the rare giant Aldabra tortoise here too which can be viewed. This group are separate from the main population of giant tortoise which are found on Aldabra Atoll in the Seychelles.

Otherwise take a guided walk through the mangroves on the walkways in Jozani Forest, which is home to the rare red colobus monkey.

A spice tour is arranged during our stay too to provide some background history to this fascinating island.

Distance: 0 kms
Est. Drive Time: 0 hours
Meals, Day 24: X1 Breakfast

Days 28 - 29: Zanzibar Island to Arusha

We catch the ferry back to Dar, before staying the night in the historic seaside town of Bagamoyo north of Dar es Salaam. Bagamoyo was founded at the end of the 18th century. Half a century later it was one of

the most important settlements along the East African coast trading in slaves, ivory, copra and salt.

The next day we have an early rise at dawn to be on the road north to reach the busy market town of Arusha. Set in the shadow of Mount Meru, Arusha is the closest major town to the game parks for which Tanzania is so famous– the Serengeti and Ngorongoro Crater - our next big highlight.

On a very clear day, Kilimanjaro, Africa's highest mountain, might sometimes be seen on our drive in to Arusha as well.

Distance over two days: 665 kms
Est. Drive Time, Day 28: 2 hours
Est. Drive Time, Day 29: 11 - 12 hours Incl. lunch stop
Meals: X2 Breakfasts, X2 Dinners

Day 30: Arusha to Simba Camp, Ngorongoro Crater

This morning we travel through Maasai towns and villages to reach the gate of the Ngorongoro Crater. Here we transfer into open top 4x4 vehicles for the scenic ride up to the Crater rim, and then we are out on our next safari in Ngorongoro Crater. We stop for photos at the Lookout on the edge of the Crater for a wide panoramic view across the rim, before our steep descent to the Crater floor.

This large, unbroken volcanic caldera, formed 2-3 million years ago is home to the Big 5 and a Noah's Ark for wildlife including lion, leopard, elephant, rhino, buffalo, wildebeest, zebra, cheetah, hyena, jackal, warthog and more. So game viewing is regularly fabulous.

We return to our camp high up on the top tonight. The temperatures drop so do make sure you have some warm items with you regardless of the time of year.

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

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

Day 31: Simba Camp to Ngiri Camp, Central Serengeti

Our journey this morning takes us towards the open plains of the vast Serengeti on a slow transit through Ngorongoro Conservation Area. Wildlife is well visible from the large windows of the truck on our approach to the Serengeti and Maasai villages are dotted around the countryside. The traditional farmers are easily spotted tending their herds of goats and cows, in their bright checked shuka attire.

We aim to enter the Serengeti in the overland truck at Naabi Gate by early afternoon.

The Serengeti's rich grazing grounds are the home of the famous "Great Migration" of up to 1.7 million wildebeest as well as 200,000 zebra and 350,000 Thomson's, Grant's gazelle as well as impala who are constantly on the move, in search of the richest grazing and who attract an incredible concentration of predators including lion, leopard, cheetah and spotted hyena.

We game drive through to the afternoon, before making our way to our campsite in the centre of the park. The park's nearly 15,000 square kilometres stretches away in all directions from our camp. Zip up your tent and drift off to sleep listening to the sounds of the wild.

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

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

Optional excursion: Maasai village visit

Day 32: Ngiri Camp to Bunda

An early start and we are away for more game drives in the truck.

We scan the grasslands for sightings of game, the Serengeti being home to all the African wildlife you might wish to see - giraffe, buffalo, topi, eland, hartebeest, dik dik, elephant, crocodile, baboon, caracal, serval, genet, bat-eared foxes plus much, much more. We pass hippo pools. With a little luck a leopard might be seen lounging in a tree and cheetah resting in the shade, recovering from their last high speed chase. For those who wish to balloon too, an early morning hot air balloon safari can be arranged.

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

Distance: 160 kms

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

Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Dinner

Included wildlife activity: Morning game drives, Serengeti National Park

Vehicle for game drives: Overland truck

Optional excursions: Ballooning in the Serengeti, Hill walk

Days 33 - 34: Bunda to Mwanza, Lake Victoria

Our drive today is to Mwanza, a bustling market town on the southern banks of Lake Victoria, where we can top up on supplies. Look out for the boats of local fishermen, fishing for perch and tilapia.

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

Distance, Day 33: 156 kms

Est. Drive Time, Day 33: 3 - 4 hours

Meals: X2 Breakfasts, X2 Dinners

Day 35: Mwanza to Nyakanazi

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

Distance: 275 kms

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

Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Dinner

Days 36 - 37: Nyakanazi to Kigali, Rwanda

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

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

Distance, Day 36: 260 kms

Est. Drive Time, Day 36: +/- 10.5 hours (depending on the border) incl. lunch stop

Meals: X2 Breakfasts, X2 Dinners

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

Days 38 - 39: Kigali to Kisoro, Uganda

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

museum.

The following day there is the option to head off early on the steep trek to visit Dian Fossey's grave, the American primatologist and conservationist who undertook an intensive study of the species and spent her life working for their survival. Her murder remains shrouded in mystery. We all then meet up later in the day having crossed into Uganda to stay for two nights in Kisoro in a simple local guesthouse where we are based while trekking the endangered mountain gorillas

Distance, Day 38: 115 kms

Est. Drive Time, Day 38: 3 hours

Distance, Day 39: 51 kms

Est. Drive Time, Day 39: 3 hours (depending on the border)

Meals: X2 Breakfasts, X2 Dinners

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

Notes: If you wished to trek the gorillas in Rwanda please let us know at the earliest prior to booking. For those wishing to visit Dian Fossey's grave please let us know with good notice before the tour. For this excursion you will transfer late on day 39 after the Fossey trek to catch the group up in Kisoro ready for your gorilla trek on day 40.

Days 40 - 41: Kisoro to Kabale

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

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

The gorillas are gentle herbivores, who are regularly found on the trek munching the day away, when they are not playing or sleeping. They live in family groups under the charge of an older dominant male. Known as the silverback, this adult male can weigh up to 350 lbs. Despite their size, the gorillas are shy and sensitive creatures, and in great danger of extinction. Against all odds conservationists have recently upgraded the mountain gorillas' conservation status from critically endangered to endangered thankfully. There is no cause to rest though as there are still only about 1,000 gorillas, all living in this small mountain area found in Rwanda, Uganda and the Congo.

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

The afternoon of day 41 we transfer to Kabale to overnight. A late afternoon visit to Lake Bunyoni "the place of little birds" if you would like to swim or canoe in this beautiful destination can be arranged depending on our timing this day.

Distance, Day 41: 75 kms

Est Drive Time, Day 41: 3 hours

Meals: X2 Breakfasts, X2 Dinners

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

Day 42: Kabale to Kalinzu Forest

This morning as the mist lifts and the sun rises we have a leisurely breakfast and stop for shopping before we make our way through to Kalinzu Forest and this rural campsite. This evening we learn about the plight of the chimpanzees that make this habitat their home. Watch out for baboons also coming to say hello!

Distance, Day 7: 145 kms

Est. Drive Time, Day 7: 4.5 hours

Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Dinner

Day 43: Kalinzu Forest to Queen Elizabeth National Park

This morning those wishing to trek to see the habituated Chimpanzees that live in this forest head out early and hopefully see them in their natural environment along with the other animals that make the forest their home.

Once the Chimp trekkers return we then have a game drive as we enter Queen Elizabeth National park. Queen Elizabeth National Park is a conservation success, as is gradually building on its wildlife population after the park was decimated during the civil wars that occurred in Uganda back in the last century. In the afternoon we head down to the shores of the Kazinga Channel where we jump on board our boat for a game cruise where we hope to spot elephants, hippos and buffalo as well as large varieties of bird species.

After a game the game cruise we head to the shores of Lake Edward and our campsite for the night on the edge of the park. Although outside of the park boundaries the animals and especially the hippos like to graze on the surrounding fields nearby.

Distance: 40 kms

Est. Drive Time: 1 hour

Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Dinner

Included wildlife activities: Game cruise on the Kazinga Channel, Queen Elizabeth National Park. Slow transit afternoon drive, Queen Elizabeth.

Vehicle for game drive: Overland truck

Optional Excursion: Chimpanzee trek in Kalinzu Forest

Days 44 - 45: Queen Elizabeth to Ziwa Rhino Sanctuary

We are up early as the sunrises this morning as we make our way out of the park keeping an eye out for the elephants and kobs along the way as we head up the Albertine Rift Escarpment with the stunning views of the park.

As we make our way further into Uganda, extensive fruit stalls appear at the side of the road and vendors approach the truck selling cold bottle of water and soft drink, corn and skewers of fresh cooked meat. We stop at traditional craft markets and the Equator and stay overnight in the capital Kampala.

We leave the capital the next day and travel to the Ziwa Rhino sanctuary, the only place in Uganda to see rhinos.

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

Optional excursions: Rhino trek, boat ride

Days 46 - 48: Ziwa to Jinja

We arrive at Jinja! This is the "adventure capital" of East Africa. Jinja is situated by the White Nile, close to Lake Victoria at the source.

Here we have a couple of days to relax and can take advantage of the wide range of activities on offer: white water rafting, quad biking, horse riding, bungee jumping, bush walking, helping out in a local school plus a variety of boat and kayak trips.

Distance, Day 46: 209 kms

Est. Drive Time, Day 46: +/- 6 hours incl. lunch stop

Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Dinner

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

Day 49: Jinja to Eldoret, Kenya

Leaving Uganda behind us, we cross the border into the last country on our tour – Kenya! We make our way to our next camp. In Eldoret, look out for runners along the road as we drive through, as this is the training ground of many of Kenya's famous athletes.

Distance: 268 kms

Est. Drive Time: +/- 7.5 hours (depending on the border) incl. stops for lunch & shopping
Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Dinner

Days 50 - 51: Eldoret to Nakuru

From Eldoret we drive on to Nakuru, in the beautiful Kenyan Rift Valley, where we are based for two nights while we go out on safari in Nakuru National Park.

Nakuru is situated around Lake Nakuru which is regularly home to a myriad of greater and lesser flamingos, who can turn the edge of the water a pale pink as they feed on algae in the lake's soda waters. The park is flanked on one side by the dramatic Baboon Cliffs, a popular viewing point, and euphorbia stands and acacia forests on the other. The park also is a stronghold for both rhino species, and boasts all the favorites you would want to see, including the rare Rothschild's giraffe. Here we have a full day of guided game drives here with a local guide.

Distance: 169 kms
Est Drive Time: 5 hours incl. stops for lunch and shopping
Meals: X2 Breakfasts, X2 Dinners

Included wildlife activity: Full day of game drives in Nakuru National Park.
Vehicle for game drives: 4x4 minivan with pop up roof

Days 52 - 53 Nakuru to Naivasha

We arrive at Lake Naivasha, where we spend a couple of days chilling out on the banks of the lake. You can have afternoon tea at Elsamere, go on a hippo cruise, go for a guided walk to the Green Crater Lake Sanctuary or hire a bike and take a ride through Hell's Gate National Park. The cycle in Hell's Gate is a great way to stretch your legs whilst amongst zebra, eland, gazelle and giraffe. The scenery in this park is stunning due to past volcanic activity 35 million years ago. It can get hot in this park though so take plenty of water.

Distance, Day 52: 70 kms
Est. Drive Time, Day 52: 3 hours incl. stop for shopping
Meals: X2 Breakfasts, X2 Dinners

Included wildlife activity: Hippo cruise Lake Naivasha

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

Day 54: Naivasha to Loita Hills

From Naivasha we make our way towards the Masai Mara reserve. We stop overnight at Loita Hills for a stay with the Masai.

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

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

Distance: 154 km
Est. Drive Time: 5 hours incl. stop for shopping
Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Dinner

Days 55 - 56: Loita Hills to Masai Mara

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

Then we head on to our last game park for the tour, the Masai Mara, where we have two days of game drives in small open 4 X 4 vehicles with a local guide. The Mara is one of the natural wonders of the world and is perhaps best known for being part of the setting for the famous wildebeest migration, a mass movement of over 2 million wildebeest, zebra and Thomson's gazelle. The migration moves between the plains of the Serengeti in Tanzania and the Masai Mara in Kenya. Apart from the ever-watchful crocodiles

found in and by the rivers, the other ever-vigilant predators, particularly lion, cheetah and hyena, closely follow the herds on their seasonal migrations as well to add to the drama. The Mara is particularly famous for its lion population, as well as cheetah and leopard.

On the months when the migration arrives, any time from late June, the vast herds can be regularly found on the grassy plains. They tend to stay on through to October. Regardless of the season though there is always plenty to see here with resident elephant, rhino, hippo, buffalo, eland, giraffe, warthog and crocodile, as well as an immense amount of birdlife.

Distance, Day 55: 60 km

Est. Drive Time, Day 55: 2 hours

Meals: X2 Breakfasts, X2 Dinners

Included wildlife activity: X1 morning and X2 afternoon game drives

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

Optional excursion: Balloon safari

Days 57 - 58: Masai Mara to Nairobi

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

The last day is a free day in Nairobi with the option to visit the Giraffe Centre and Sheldricks Elephant Orphanage in the morning.

That evening we have a final group dinner to enjoy a final night together and say farewell.

Distance, Day 57: 300 km

Est. Drive Time, Day 57: Short morning game drive, then 6.5 hours to Nairobi incl. stops for lunch and photos

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

Included wildlife activity: Morning game drive, Masai Mara

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

Optional excursions: Meal out at a restaurant, Giraffe Centre, Sheldrick's Elephant Orphanage

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.

Other Information

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Gorilla trekking

On your trip we travel to Kigali and from there to one of the gorilla parks for those who wish to trek the mountain gorillas. We book the gorilla permits for your safari ahead of time to visit either Rwanda's Parc National des Volcans, where Dian Fossey worked with the gorillas, or alternatively Bwindi National Park, depending on availability.

A few things to note about your gorilla trek

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

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

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

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

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

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

Whilst your trekkers work very hard to enable you to see the mountain gorillas and 99.9% of clients do see 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 visible security at all Parks and the campsites. Plain-clothes and uniformed security personnel patrol local roads and in the local communities. Do be aware also that armed guards trek with visitors to the gorillas. We are confident that everything possible is being done to ensure security in the area. Our top priority must be the safety and security of our passengers and crew. Security in this region will be of ongoing concern for a while and can never be completely guaranteed as the park is on the border with Democratic Republic of Congo. Do be aware also that if we do perceive any increased security risk in the region we will immediately re-route your safari.

Zanzibar Island

As part of your safari we offer the option to go over to exotic Zanzibar Island for a 4-night stay in bed and breakfast accommodation. Three nights are spent in beach bungalows to the north of the island and one night is spent in a lodge in the traditional ancient capital, Stone Town. We also organise a spice tour which provides a fun and fascinating glimpse of the history of the island. We visit the ruins of the Maharubi palace and plantations where exclusive fruits and spices are grown, the island's history being based around the spice trade. Otherwise the time on the island is yours to relax, enjoy the beach, warm waters and fresh seafood. There is a scuba diving centre beside the bungalows and snorkeling is also easily arranged from here.

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

accommodation in doubles or triples. Singles are also available, for which there is a supplement.

Money and budgeting

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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 stay
6. Insurance
7. Equipment

Step off the plane in Africa with...

8. Spending money - This is very individual and often depends on how much you drink, shop and wish to upgrade. A suggested budget would be 1,150 - 1,385 USD
9. Local Payment - Current total 930 USD
10. Optional excursions - A traveller who wishes to do most optionals on the trip will spend an average of between 400 - 1450 USD .
11. Visas : 100 - 325 USD depending on nationality
Purchasing visas in Africa in US dollars for the above passports is currently cheaper than buying ahead of time.
12. Pre and Post safari costs

Please note: You need to carry money with you out to Africa to cover Items 8 to 12 (i.e. for your spending money, local payment, optionals, visas and pre and post safari costs). The figures above are conservative estimates for average spending per person on safari. There is a lot of variation in how much spending money individuals need as it is dictated by personal choice, as is your budget for optional activities.

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

How do I take this money to Africa?

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

USD cash

We are finding that clients find it most convenient to take between approximately 1,600 - 1,800 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 2008 or later and in good condition. When arranging you USD cash, a range of denominations is probably the most convenient including 5 USD and 10 USD notes as well as 20s, 50s and 100s.

Pounds and Euro cash

You may also like to carry up to 250 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 Johannesburg, you should change up enough money into Rand to cover all your personal needs such as accommodation, transfers and meals including breakfast for the first day before you meet the truck. Please note breakfast is not provided on the first day of the safari. We would strongly recommend you change up 70 GBP/EUR at Johannesburg airport when you arrive if your money is currently in sterling or euro. Otherwise change the equivalent in USD.

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

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

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 it is possible the rate is usually poor.

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

For your information the currencies you will meet are:

South Africa – South African rand

Botswana – Botswana Pula

Zimbabwe – US dollars

Zambia - Zambian kwacha

Malawi- Malawi kwacha

Tanzania -Tanzanian shillings

Rwanda - Rwandan francs

Uganda - Ugandan shillings

Kenya – Kenyan shillings

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

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

What we cover from the price and local payment?

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

- Kruger National Park
- Chobe National Park

- Hwange National Park
- South Luangwa National Park
- The Serengeti
- Ngorongoro Crater
- Queen Elizabeth National Park
- Nakuru National Park
- Masai Mara, 2 nights
- Khama Rhino Sanctuary
- Painted Dog Conservation Centre
- Mikumi National Park
- Lake Malawi
- Lake Victoria
- Kigali - Genocide Memorial
- Ziwa Rhino Sanctuary
- Bujagali
- Lake Naivasha
- Maasai village incl. bush walk

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
- Breakfast & dinner whilst travelling on the truck including some pre-prepared bbqs and local meals. (being 49 breakfasts and 48 dinners).
- Camping whilst travelling with the truck plus some simple hostels/hotels (being x51 nights camping and 3 nights in dorm accommodation in a lodge or similar)

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- Flights including taxes
- Travel insurance
- Optional excursions as listed and pre and post tour add ons
- Lunch and drinks throughout, as well as breakfast and dinner when the truck parks up at Victoria Falls, Dar es Salaam and Jinja.
- Visas
- Pre and post tour airport transfers and accommodation
- Extra equipment including sleeping bag, torch and medical kit
- Other incidentals including for tips, internet use, upgrades from camping and the occasional cheap excursion such as local walks, snorkelling
- Personal travel insurance

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 is also calculated to cover those times when you don't eat and sleep on the truck whilst on Zanzibar Island and at times when the truck is parked up for a few days and everyone is busy doing activities in Victoria Falls and Jinja. in Victoria falls and Jinja. You may also need to spend on personal costs such as email, toiletries etc. The current recommendation to carry as personal spending money for this safari is 1,150 - 1,385 USD. Allow an extra 30 USD per week approximately if you think you might want to occasionally upgrade your accommodation to stay in chalets, which are available at some campsites.

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

Regularly 'smallish' optional activities costing under 20 USD also arise. These also will be covered by this

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

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

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

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

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

Optional activities

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

Please contact us if you would like further information about any of these activities or excursions. Many of the optionals are payable in Africa in USD (cash). A few may be payable in local currencies. (Prices are given as a guide only as at June 2020).

BOTSWANA

Khama reserve

- Rhino trek 462 Pula
- Night game drive (minimum 4 people) 240 Pula
- Chobe game drive Pula 410

ZIMBABWE including Victoria Falls

Hwange NP extra game drive (depending on season) 50 USD

Victoria Falls by the Zambezi

- Victoria Falls Entrance 30 USD

Please note these prices do not include a Zambian visa if you need to cross over.

- "Flight of the Angels" over Victoria Falls: Depending on time in the air and type of craft -
- Microlite (Zambia) 15 mins 185 USD
- Microlite (Zambia) 30 mins 366 USD
- Helicopter Flights
- Flights of Angels 15 mins (Zim side) 150 USD
- Zambezi Spectacular 25 mins (Zim side) 270 USD

White water rafting packages

- Whitewater rafting full day low water only 120 USD
 - Whitewater rafting, half day high water only 120 USD
 - Whitewater rafting/riverboarding package (minimum 4 pax) 190 USD
- (subject to water levels)
- Rafting DVD 30 USD

Horse back safaris

- Horse Rides - Novice, 2 hours 100 USD
- Horse Rides - Experienced – 2.5 hours 100 USD
- Full day horse ride,(experienced riders only) 155 USD

• Village tour (includes return transfers from Victoria Falls, aprox 3 hrs)	60	USD
Bungee Jumping		
• Bungee Jump (111 metres - 3rd highest commercial bungee in the world)	160	USD
• Bridge slide	45	USD
• Tandem bridge slide	70	USD
• Bridge swing	160	USD
• Tandem bridge swing	240	USD
Gorge activities		
• Gorge Swing only (1 jump)	95	USD
• Tandem gorge swing	140	USD
• Single flying fox	45	USD
• Single zip line	70	USD
• Tandem zip line	110	USD
• Canopy Tour	55	USD
• Big Air Combo, 1x bungee, 1x bridge swing, 1x bridge slide	210	USD
• Half day adrenaline - gorge swing, zip line, flying fox	140	USD
• Half day adrenaline/Canopy tour	175	USD
• Raft/ Gorge swing, Combo Half or full day rafting (water level permitting) 1 gorge swing (10 USD park fees for rafting not inclusive)	200	USD
Adventure Pass 1	315	USD
• Any 2 of the following with a sunset cruise		
• Half day rafting Lion Walk		
• Full day rafting 15 minute Helicopter		
• Elephant back safari Canoeing		
• Half day adrenaline		
• (Park fees not included where applicable)		
Adventure pass 2	385	USD
• Any 3 of the following activities		
• Half day rafting Lion Walk		
• Full day rafting 15 minute Helicopter		
• Elephant back safari Canoeing		
• Half day adrenaline		
Upper Zambezi Canoeing		
• Zambezi drift - incl. transfers, b'fast, drinks and park fees (7am-2.30 pm)	150	USD
• Wine drift	70	USD
• Half day Canoe Safari including park fees	125	USD
• Full day Canoe Safari including park fees	150	USD
Zambezi River Cruises		
• Sunset/ booze cruise (inc transfer,full bar and snacks)	55	USD
• Dinner/sundowner cruise (inc transfers,full bar,snacks and 3 course dinner)	90	USD
Zambian day visa (if required)	20	USD
Devils Pool (incl breakfast)	105	USD
Devils Pool (incl lunch)	170	USD
Devils Pool (incl high tea)	145	USD
*subject to availability and season		
**visa for Zambia and transfers not included		
ZAMBIA including Victoria Falls		
• South Luangwa, extra game drive (depending on season)	45	USD

- Walking safari 53 USD

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
- 1 hour horse forest ride 35 USD
- 1 hour horse riding including swim/ride 45 USD
- 2 hour horse riding including swim/ride 70 USD
- 3 hour horse riding including swim/ride 90 USD

TANZANIA

Zanzibar Island

Scuba Diving

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

Snorkeling

- Kendwa from 15 USD
- Tumbutu half day from 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

Serengeti

Maasai village

10 USD

RWANDA

- Walk to Dian Fossey's grave 80 USD
- Transport to Dian Fossey's grave 100 USD/vehicle
- Genocide Memorial audio guide (entry is free) 25 USD
- Banana beer making 35 USD
- Basket weaving 10 USD

UGANDA

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	10 USD
• Batwa village visit, visiting a tribe in their relocated village, inc. transport, minimum number 5 people	35 USD
• Sunset canoe trekking - Lake Mutanda	10 USD
• Coffee tour	35 USD
 Kalinzu Forest Chimpanzee trek	 50 USD
 <i>At Ziwa rhino sanctuary</i>	
Rhino trekking	30 USD
Shoebill canoe ride	35 USD
Night walk	35 USD
Nature/birding walk	35 USD
 <i>Jinja and the White Nile</i>	
White Water rafting packages	
Whitewater rafting on the White Nile (full day 30 km)	140 USD
grade 5 rapids with breakfast, light lunch, dinner, sodas and beers	
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 hr Bujagali Sup tour	40 USD
½ day guided SUP	95 USD
 Source of the Nile lunch cruise	
	30 USD
Nile Sunset cruise with snacks and 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)	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

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 (1050KES)	12 USD
Hippo boat cruise	30 USD
Add on guided walk with boat cruise	30 USD

The Giraffe Park	1500 KES
Sheldrick's Elephant Sanctuary	500 KES
Night out in Nairobi	30 USD

Further information in regards to optional excursions and spending money

Paying for excursions in Africa allows you to decide what you wish to do as you travel. Bear in mind that some activities such as whitewater rafting and game park visits can be seasonal. Please note also that prices constantly fluctuate in Africa, partly due to exchange rate 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 personal 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 online for the latest copy of this document as well. 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 entry fees and the cost of adventure sports such as tandem skydiving, 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. And remember that the money you spend also enables much-needed cash to go to local people and wildlife conservation.

If you choose not to do an optional activity, do bear in mind that 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, 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 Victoria Falls there is a lot of choice and either/or options. 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 opt for 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 goes over to Zanzibar.

If you would like further details of any of the different optionals for the safari please 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 potential optionals you will have a choice to do nor to predict new options that can arise. We will endeavour to provide another accurate price update for you just prior to departure. Please also note though that we have no control over local operators' prices or government taxes. Nor do we select operators only on price; many factors have to be weighed up when selecting operators. We are always keen to get information on new operators and the best prices but do be aware that deals come and go constantly in Africa. Consistent service delivery and safe and respectful ethical practices are also worth searching for and rewarding. Your crew will work very

hard to ensure you get the best value for money day to day on the road.

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

What do I need to bring?

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We ask that you carry your possessions in one large backpack, travel bag or soft suitcase (65 to 85 litre maximum). Day to day necessities can also be kept in an additional day bag, which should be large enough to carry your needs for 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 that you wear against your skin.

Do remember that travelling light is always wise, 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 there are lockups in the vehicle for your valuables, pack and day bag. There is a locker under your seat for easy access to day-to-day essentials.

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

You need to bring:

- Travel documents including passport (plus relevant visas) and air tickets
- Booking Voucher with Final Receipt - essential for immigration purposes
- Vaccination documentation, particularly for yellow fever injection
- Insurance policy
- USD 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 driver's license
- Photocopies of main documents (keep separately)

Essential camping equipment. Note we provide tents, stools, sleeping mats.

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

Other items

- Pocketknife
- 1 litre water container (make sure it screws tight)
- Ziploc bags for wet items, rubbish and to keep items dust-free
- Towel and anti-bacterial Soap
- Condoms
- Tissues
- A means of securing your hair back is useful such as a bandana, a scarf, beanies, hair ties and clips as it can be windy driving on the truck

- Cigarette lighter
- Concentrated travel washing liquid or washing powder, 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 that they can be quite expensive and it can be time-consuming sourcing particular items so carry what you need if possible.

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

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

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

- iPod/iPhone/MP3/Music player including earphones if you want to listen to your own music
Please note it is also possible to use your iPod/iPhone as a hard drive to store photos - check the memory before travelling to ensure you have enough space to store all the photos you may wish to take
- Camera in a protective case and spare memory card(s)
For SLR cameras we recommend a telephoto of 120 mm (or similar) or an 80-200 mm zoom
- 2 camera batteries, including a new one
- Polarising filter/lens hood for SLRs
- USB cable - to connect to internet cafes or for downloading
- Camcorder
- Mobile phone
Please remember if you set up international roaming the charges will be very high, even to receive calls. Sim cards can be purchased cheaply on the road. Remember you will need to have your phone unlocked prior to arriving in Africa so that other sim cards can be used with it. Check you know how to program it to work as an alarm clock

Charging your equipment

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

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

Clothes

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

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

- Spare shoelaces

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

Be aware that camouflage clothing should be avoided.

Life on your big yellow truck

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

On safari do follow all instructions given by your safari leader as to how to use equipment, move around on, 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. Do also ensure you follow all instructions and signs provided by the local site and activity operators from destination to destination in regard to health, safety and security issues as we travel.

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 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. 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.

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 travelling. This works well so that friends can do shorter sections, different people come and go and the group sizes and kitties stay strong.

Camping

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

We also supply high-density foam roll mats.

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

It is a participation trip and part of your 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 mossie net as well if you think you may wish to sleep out of your tent, particularly in the hotter months. It can become warm in the tents. Please note your net needs to be large enough to tuck in under your roll mat.

There is also the occasional opportunity to upgrade to 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 on 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 are, in the main, long drop style through Malawi, Tanzania and Uganda. 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, 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 the final restaurant meal together in Nairobi.

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 on 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

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! 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.

Whilst in Johannesburg before the start of your safari, all valuables should be kept on your body when not locked away.

Confidence tricksters are particularly common. Be wary of anyone with a hard luck story, asking for assistance, soliciting sponsorship (particularly educational) or people offering a deal to change money at favorable rates.

ATMs are becoming more accessible on the route, so you must also be wary of security in regards to crimes around ATMs. Be discreet when withdrawing cash and 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 travelling you are also advised to keep yourself informed and up to date as to the current political situation in the countries through which we travel and to check out the Foreign Office Travel Advice. If you are a British, Australian or New Zealand citizen you may like to look at: www.fco.gov.uk, www.dfat.gov.au or www.mfat.govt.nz.

Remember this is a group experience you are booking. It is a condition of booking that you follow the group leader's instructions and take responsibility for your rostered tasks. It is important that every member of the group is attentive and looks out for each 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

Please remember we are all ambassadors for our respective countries and your behaviour should reflect this. An open mind and a desire to have a positive impact are vital attitudes to carry with you. A sense of humour is also an essential to pack for any safari in Africa.

Look out for each other in your group. Your safari is a group participation trip. Ensure you do all you can so that your group works well together.

Day to day, be sensitive and aware of how you and your group are being perceived by those around you. Be alert to where you are, sensitive when taking photos, aware of how much noise we are making, careful of how you are dressed. Everyone wants to have the best time possible in Africa and there are plenty of

chances to have a trip of a lifetime. Do please note that excessive noise, obscenities and inappropriate behaviour cannot be tolerated. It can embarrass other members of the group and seriously upset those around us particularly in campsites and restaurants. Be responsive, discreet and sensitive to the world around you.

Be particularly alert to the impact of excessive drinking as you travel. Alcohol abuse will put your health at risk, particularly in malarial zones. Please note: alcohol is not to be drunk on the trucks.

There is also a strict no-smoking rule on board 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. Please be considerate and keep noise to a minimum. Everybody's game viewing on an ongoing basis is better served if our impact on a park is kept to a minimum. Do be attentive to all signs and instructions as to how to behave in game parks.

Please follow all requests from your tour leader.

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

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

Keeping in touch

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

Email – you will be able to access email in Johannesburg, Victoria Falls, Lusaka, Lilongwe, Zanzibar, Arusha, Kampala and Nairobi. 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 travelling, please contact the office as to the best destination and address to use.

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

Language

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

The Great Migration

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

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

Reading List

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The Africans
Malaria Dreams
Out of Africa
Letters from Africa
Venture Into The Interior
A Good Man in Africa
The Grass is Singing
African Laughter
The Tree Where Man Was Born
African Silences
Cry the Beloved Country
The Weather in Africa
Zanzibar
Mukiwa: A White Boy in Africa
Don't Let's Go the Dogs Tonight
I Dreamed of Africa
Songs to an African Sunset
The Scramble for Africa
The State of Africa
Disgrace
The State of Africa
Mugabe: Power, Plunder and the
Struggle for Zimbabwe
Blood River
The Zanzibar Chest
Sowing the Mustard
In the Footsteps of Mr Kurtz
River God and The Seven Scrolls, and other titles
Out of Shadows
A Sunday at the Pool in Kigali
Africa on a Shoestring
Healthy Travel Africa

David Lamb
Stuart Stevens
Karen Blixen
Karen Blixen
Laurens Van der Post
William Boyd
Doris Lessing
Doris Lessing
Peter Matthiessen
Peter Matthiessen
Alan Paton
Martha Gellhorn
Giles Foden
Peter Godwin
Alexandra Fuller
Kuki Gallman
Sekai Nzenza Shand
Thomas Pakenham
Martin Meredith
J.M. Coetzee
Martin Meredith

Martin Meredith
Tim Butcher
Aiden Hartlet
Yoweri Museveni
Michela Wrong
Wilbur Smith
Jason Wallace
Gill Courtemanche
Geoff Crowther
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

30th June 2020