



# A Taste of Africa

## 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.

### The dates for A Taste of Africa

Departs Kampala	Finish Dar es Salam	Price	Local Payment (US\$)
19 Apr 2020	14 May 2020	£1,100	US\$550
26 May 2020	20 Jun 2020	£1,100	US\$550
03 Jul 2020	28 Jul 2020	£1,100	US\$550
02 Aug 2020	27 Aug 2020	£1,100	US\$550
23 Aug 2020	17 Sep 2020	£1,100	US\$550
29 Sep 2020	24 Oct 2020	£1,100	US\$550
24 Oct 2020	18 Nov 2020	£1,100	US\$550
13 Dec 2020	07 Jan 2021	£1,100	US\$550
02 Feb 2021	27 Feb 2021	£1,100	US\$550
06 Mar 2021	31 Mar 2021	£1,100	US\$550
09 May 2021	03 Jun 2021	£1,100	US\$550
08 Jun 2021	03 Jul 2021	£1,100	US\$550
03 Jul 2021	28 Jul 2021	£1,100	US\$550
05 Aug 2021	30 Aug 2021	£1,100	US\$550

**Countries visited:** Uganda • Rwanda • Tanzania

**Highlights:** Whitewater rafting on the White Nile • Kayaking • Volunteer in a village school • Lake Victoria • Ziwa Rhino Sanctuary • Chimpanzee trekking • Queen Elizabeth National Park with a game cruise on Kazinga Channel • The Genocide Memorial and Museum • Mountain gorilla trek • Golden monkey trek • Dian Fossey's grave • Orphanage visit • The Grumeti • Batwa Pygmy Village • Serengeti National Park • Ngorongoro Crater • Maasai boma visit • Zanzibar Island • Spice tour • Snorkelling and scuba diving • Mnemba Atoll • Prison Island and the giant tortoise • Dolphin boat cruise • Red colobus monkey trek.

**Safari structure:** This safari commences in Jinja, Uganda, and finishes on the barefoot paradise of

Zanzibar Island. It allows you the opportunity to enjoy some of the planet's most treasured wildlife highlights such as trekking the mountain gorillas in the Virungas and game drives on the Serengeti plains. 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 shorter sections of the safari's route. Please feel free to contact us for further details.

## Index

[Back to Index](#)

***Please click on any of these section names to go straight there.***

Safari departure dates and details	Page 1
Flights	Page 2
Insurance	Page 3
Visa requirements	Page 3
Pre and post safari information	Page 4
Health and immunisation	Page 7
A detailed guide itinerary	Page 9
Gorilla permits and arrangements for your stay on Zanzibar Island	Page 11
Money and budgeting	Page 13
Packing - what to bring, packing advice incl. electrical equipment	Page 19
Life on your big yellow truck (Including advice on safety and security, trading and donating, general code of conduct, keeping in touch)	Page 21
The migration	Page 25
Wildlife chart	Page 26
Further reading	Page 27

## Flights

[Back to Index](#)

When arranging your flights we suggest that you arrive the day before your safari begins, ideally by early evening as we have a predeparture meeting at 8pm. The international airport nearest to Jinja is Entebbe.

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

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

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

There are several airlines that fly into Entebbe and out of Dar es Salaam, including British Airways, Kenya Airways, Emirates, KLM/Air France, South African Airways, Lufthansa and Ethiopian Airways. A number of airlines also fly between Zanzibar and Nairobi or Dar es Salaam and Nairobi, such as Precision Air, Kenya Airways, KLM and Fly 540.

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.*

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

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

Click on the following link to the page on our website to find out more:  
[www.absoluteafrica.com/Insurance](http://www.absoluteafrica.com/Insurance)

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

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

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

## Visa requirements for A Taste of Africa

Your passport needs to be valid for at least 6 months after your trip finishes. Ensure also that you have adequate pages in your passport for each country that you visit. As a guide then, for the Taste of Africa safari you will want to have a minimum of 5 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](http://www.fco.gov.uk)) under 'entry requirements'. Do be aware it can be illegal to travel in Africa on two passports.

For the Taste of Africa tour, most passport holders including British, Australian, New Zealand, South African, German, French, Dutch, Canadian and American passport holders can get the Ugandan visa on arrival at Entebbe airport OR can apply online for a single entry visa ahead of time. This is 50 USD. You can then purchase a single entry Rwandan visa at the border for 30 USD. **This is payable in USD cash.**

**Please note Irish citizens do not require a visa for Uganda.**

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

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

Passport	Uganda	Rwanda	Tanzania	No of Visas	Total Value US\$
Australian	\$50	\$30	\$50	3	\$130
New Zealand	\$50	\$30	\$50	3	\$130
South African	\$50	\$30	-	2	\$80
Canadian	\$50	\$30	\$50	3	\$130
American	\$50	\$30	\$100	3	\$180
British	\$50	\$30	\$50	3	\$130

German	\$50	\$30	\$50	3	\$130
Dutch	\$50	\$30	\$50	3	\$130
Irish	-	\$30	\$100	2	\$130
French	\$50	\$30	\$50	3	\$130

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

Be aware that visa requirements can change without prior notice. This information is given as a guide only. We do ask that you also check your personal current visa requirements with the relevant embassies well in advance before you travel. Ultimately you are responsible for ensuring your visa arrangements are adequate for your trip. For more information on visas check out [www.projectvisa.com](http://www.projectvisa.com)

## Pre and post safari information

[Back to Index](#)

The Taste of Africa safari starts at Nile River Explorers, Jinja, and you can arrive any time on the first day. The truck usually arrives late afternoon with clients that have travelled from Kenya who will continue through to the gorilla parks and onto Zanzibar with you.

The crew will organise a meeting in Jinja 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

Upon booking this overland trip a form is sent to you on which you can update us with any change in your details and confirm your insurance details, if you don't know these when booking.

#### Flight departure

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

#### Arriving in Entebbe International Airport, Uganda

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

The international airport in Uganda is situated 5 km from Entebbe. We can arrange for a taxi transfer from the airport when you arrive. It is worth noting that the journey from Entebbe International Airport can take around 3 hours to reach Nile River Explorers campsite, depending on the traffic.

The cab fare will be approx. 60 USD per vehicle. 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 Ugandan shillings for what you need until you meet the truck or can next get to a bank. Do remember you need to pay for any meals you will have before the trip starts, including breakfast for the morning of the departure, as well as any accommodation and transfers prior to departure.



NB: For rough budgeting/banking purposes in Uganda the current mid rate is approximately USD 1 = 3,690 Ugandan shillings (*March 2020*).

## The end of the safari

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

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

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

Airport transfers are usually about 35 USD for the taxi.

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

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

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

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

## Health And immunisation

[Back to Index](#)

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

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

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

You may also like to check out the following websites:  
[www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk](http://www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk)  
[www.dh.gov.uk](http://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](http://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/](http://www.traveldoctor.com.au/)

[www.traveldoctor.co.nz](http://www.traveldoctor.co.nz)

[www.traveldoctor.co.za/](http://www.traveldoctor.co.za/)

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

### **Suggested immunisation requirements (This is only a guide!)**

The immunisations usually suggested for the countries visited on this safari are:

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

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

The choices usually suggested are:

Larium, taken x1 a week

Doxycycline, taken x1 a day

Malarone, taken x1 a day

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

As well as your anti-malarials, you will need to bring a number of other medical items in a simple Personal Medical Kit. Medical kits can usually be bought at travel clinics. Alternatively lists as to the types of items you are advised to carry can be found in the 'What do I need to bring on safari?' section on page 17.

### **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. If applying with sunblock, put on top of the sunblock.

- Ensure you carry enough DEET with you to Africa. It is not easy to get hold of mosquito repellent once on the road.
- Always sleep under a mosquito net or in a secure tent with all zips zipped up.
- Cover up early in the morning and at the end of the day and wear long sleeves shirts, long trousers, and socks.
- Wear impregnated wrist and ankle bands.
- You may wish to treat clothing with permethrin.

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

### **Other medical issues**

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

You are advised also that the waterborne bilharzia parasite is present in many bodies of fresh water in Africa including Lake Victoria. Bilharzia can be serious. It is recommended also to have a medical check up including a blood test particularly to check for bilharzia upon your return from your safari as a precaution.

Please ensure you contact a travel health clinic prior to departure for the most recent professional medical advice. The above is given as a broad guide only. Remember it is a condition of booking that you let us know upon booking or at the earliest opportunity if you have any medical conditions, and particularly if you are on regular medication.

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

## **A Taste of Africa itinerary**

[Back to Index](#)

### **Days 1 – 3: Jinja, Uganda**

We meet up at Jinja in the afternoon of Day One at our camp by the White Nile. Here you have the next two days free to enjoy the many activities on offer whilst getting to know your fellow travellers.

Hit grade 3 to 5 rapids white water rafting amidst lush tropical vegetation in the equatorial sunshine. Kayak, bungee jump, quad bike, swim, fish, horse ride and take a village walk. Many people enjoy volunteering at one of the community projects in the local villages.

Distance: 0 kms

Est. Drive Time: 0 hours

Meals: None

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

### **Day 4: Jinja to Ziwa Rhino Sanctuary**

Leaving Jinja, we travel to the Ziwa Rhino Sanctuary, the only place in Uganda where we can 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.

Distance: 225 kms

Est. Drive Time: 4 hours

Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Dinner

Included wildlife activity: Entry to Ziwa Rhino Sanctuary

*Optional excursions:* Rhino trek, boat ride

### **Days 5 - 6: Ziwa Rhino Sanctuary to Kalinzu**

Today we leave for Kampala, the capital of Uganda. We stop for shopping and there is time to explore a little in the city, we stay here overnight.

The next day we head west into lush countryside. We stop off at a local drum and craft market on the way, and then at the Equator for a photo shoot.

We camp this afternoon near the hillside forest of Kalinzu on the edge of the Rift Valley and Queen Elizabeth National Park.

Distance, Day 5: 170 kms

Distance, Day 6: 355 kms

Est. Drive Time, Day 5: +/- 3 hours

Est. Drive Time, Day 6: +/- 8 hours incl. stops at highlights such as the Equator, for shopping and lunch

Meals: X2 Breakfasts, X2 Dinners

### **Day 7: Kalinzu to Queen Elizabeth National Park**

The option of an early morning chimpanzee trek is scheduled in the beautiful Kalinzu Forest. Be prepared for an energetic hike in the Ugandan jungle as the chimps can travel fast and are often high up in the forest. The vegetation is thick on the trails and the chimps can be elusive. The chimps here are wild and whilst these chimps are habituated to human contact, there is an element of luck as to whether the chimps will be seen. Some trips we have some good viewing, other times no.

Following our morning set aside for chimpanzee trekking, we travel to Queen Elizabeth National Park for an afternoon game cruise on the Kazinga Channel to sit back and enjoy the company of hippo from the safety of a boat. There is also buffalo for company and the occasional Nile crocodile lying disarmingly motionless nearby, blending into the surroundings. Watch kingfishers diving behind us to catch small fish disorientated by the slowly passing boat. There are also elephant, lion, hyena and leopard in the park.

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 National Park

Vehicle for game drive: Overland truck

*Optional Excursion:* Chimpanzee trek in Kalinzu Forest

### **Day 8: Queen Elizabeth National Park to Kisoro**

This morning we head back again into the park for an early morning game drive where hopefully we find some surprises in amongst the bushes, with great views from our overland truck. The park is a haven for around 600 species of bird and the thousands of migratory Ugandan Kob.

We then make our way to Kisoro, passing through Kabale to stock up with gorgeous views of the Virunga Mountains on our drive. Arriving in Kisoro we settle into our very simple rural guesthouse for the next three nights in the border town on the edge of the gorillas' mountain home.

Distance: 293 kms

Est. Drive Time: 9 - 10 hours incl. stops for lunch and shopping

Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Dinner

Included wildlife activity: Morning game drive, Queen Elizabeth National Park

Vehicle for game drive: Overland truck

### **Days 9 – 10: Kisoro**

We are now in the land of the endangered mountain gorilla, and on arrival we have an orientation meeting as to the activities available here and particularly a pre-trek meeting for the gorilla trek.



At altitudes of up to 3,500 feet, gorilla trekking through dense vegetation on the volcanic slopes of the Virungas is one of the trip's high points.

The gorillas are magic to visit. Herbivores, who munch the day away when they are not playing or sleeping, they live in family groups under the charge of an older dominant male. Known as the silverback, this adult male can weigh up to 350 lbs. Despite their size, the gorillas are shy, gentle and sensitive creatures, in danger of extinction.

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

Distance: 0 kms

Est. Drive Time: 0 hours

Meals: X2 Breakfasts, X2 Dinners

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

### **Day 11: Kisoro to Musanze, Rwanda**

Today we leave the beautiful scenery of Uganda and head into Rwanda, the "land of a thousand hills". Rolling pastures and thickets of trees predominate over deep valleys and steep slopes as we drive to our first camp. The camp endeavours to establish a very simple cultural centre where you can get involved in traditional basket weaving and banana beer making. There is time this afternoon to partake in these cultural activities.

We spend the night here in Musanze, just across the Rwandan border.

Distance: 51 kms

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

Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Dinner

*Optional excursions:* Banana beer making, Basket weaving, cycle tour, village tour

### **Days 12 - 13: Musanze to Kigali**

Today we head to the capital of Rwanda, Kigali.

Those who wish head out on the steep trek to see Fossey's grave spend time this morning in the Rwandan forest. On the trek you can also see Digit's grave, one of her favourite gorillas, and the Karisoke Research Centre. Dian is world famous for her research work and passionate commitment to the mountain gorillas' survival. Transfers at the end are arranged to catch the group up in Kigali.

Rwanda is a country with a quite recent turbulent history culminating in the 1994 genocide during which ethnic differences between Hutu and Tutsis exploded in an unparalleled level of hatred and bloody violence.

We spend two nights in the capital which is a very European style city, with a visit to the Genocide Memorial the next day. This memorial is a sobering commemoration of the atrocities of 1994. The rest of the day is free so you can relax. Many like to explore a little including visiting the Nyamata memorial, Hotel des Mille Collines, the local markets and the Nyamirambo Womens Centre

Distance, Day 12: 115 kms

Est. Drive Time, Day 12: 3 hours

Meals: X2 Breakfasts, X2 Dinners

*Optional excursions:* Trek to Dian Fossey's gravesite, Banana beer making, Basket weaving, cycle tour, village tour, Genocide Memorial and Museum, Nyamata Memorial

### **Days 14 – 15: Kigali to Mwanza, Tanzania**

We take the road to the Rusumo border today to cross into Tanzania heading off the beaten track for the next few days.

Arriving into the small town of Nyakanazi late in the afternoon, we check into a simple African guesthouse for the evening. This first night in Tanzania is the chance for a traditional rural African experience, and we receive a warm welcome from the village and owners of the guesthouse.

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

Distance over 2 days: 535 kms

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

Est. Drive Time, Day 15: 9 hours incl. ferry journey, lunch and shopping stop

Meals: X2 Breakfasts, X2 Dinners

### **Day 16: Mwanza to Bunda, Tanzania**

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

Distance: 156 kms

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

Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Dinner

*Optional excursion:* Hill walk

### **Day 17: Bunda to Ngiri, Serengeti**

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

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

Distance to Ikoma Gate, Serengeti: 160 kms

Est. Drive Time: 5 hours to Ikoma Gate incl. slow transit through Grumeti.

Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Dinner

Included wildlife activity: Afternoon game drive, Serengeti National Park

Vehicle for game drive: Overland truck

### **Day 18: Ngiri to Ngorongoro Conservation Area**

Up early this morning, we head out with the dawn chorus for our second day of game drives on the African plains of Tanzania, early morning being the most active time in the park.

For the best vantage point though to see the sun rise, a balloon safari can be arranged in advance. A balloon safari allows you to drift in silence over the immense Serengeti plains offering this panoramic landscape from an entirely different perspective.

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

We stop to visit a traditional Maasai boma before leaving the park later today. During the visit the Maasai perform a march-past and the traditional adamu or 'jumping dance' for us.

Our landscape changes as we climb above the Ngorongoro Crater to make camp with sweeping views across the Crater. Our evening meal and overnight camp finds us at altitude tonight, and temperatures can drop. This is our second night camping in the wilds under African stars.

Distance: 161 kms

Est. Drive Time: 5 hours

Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Dinner

Included wildlife activities: Morning game drive, Serengeti in overland truck. Afternoon slow transit drive, Ngorongoro Conservation Area

Vehicle for game drive: Overland truck

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

### **Day 19: Ngorongoro Crater to Arusha**

An early rise and we are on the road again, this time having transferred over to smaller 4x4s. We are up early for our 2,000 feet descent into the Ngorongoro Crater, the world's largest extinct volcano. The Crater floor has a diversity of ecosystems and here, with a little luck, we can view hippo lazing in hippo pools, as well as lion, elephant and rhino. Hyena, buffalo, zebra, impala, wildebeest, cheetah, monkey, secretary birds, crowned cranes and ostrich are also resident. The rim of Lake Magadi can be pink as flocks of flamingo feast on algae depending on the time of year.

After our morning game drives in the Crater, we travel to our camp in Arusha glad to enjoy a welcome hot shower after our days in the bush.

Time permitting we stop at markets on the way to check out carving work, spears and beadwork.

Tonight we enjoy a group barbecue.

Distance: 195 kms

Est. Drive Time: 3 - 4 hours

Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Dinner

Included wildlife activity: Morning game drive, Ngorongoro Crater

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

### **Days 20 – 21: Arusha to Marangu**

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

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

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

Distance, Day 20: 120 km

Est. Drive Time, Day 20: 3 hours

Meals: X2 Breakfasts, X2 Dinners

*Optional excursions:* Kilimanjaro day hike, Marangu day tour

### **Day 22: Marangu to Bagamoyo or Dar es Salaam**

We head south today parking up on the coast. We retire to camp, lulled to sleep by the sound of the waters

lapping nearby and the breeze in the coconut palms.

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

Distance: 485 (545 if to Dar) kms

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

Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Dinner

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

### **Days 23 – 26: Optional stay on Zanzibar Island**

Day 23 we leave camp for the ferry port in Dar es Salaam. We make final preparations this morning for our break from truck life to spend four days on the exotic spice island of Zanzibar.

These last days of the tour you have the option to visit the exotic spice island of Zanzibar. Core arrangements are made well ahead of time so we are assured our groups are comfortable in the popular beach cottages to the north of the island at Kendwa and for a night in a lodge in the traditional capital. The tour leader travels over to the island with the group as well to ensure that all runs smoothly.

Heading north to Kendwa we enjoy white sand beaches, and can swim and snorkel in the crystal clear waters of the Indian Ocean. Fishing trips and cruises in traditional dhows can be organized. Scuba diving and snorkeling can also be arranged from the Dive Centre near our beach cottages to nearby reefs or further afield including to Mnemba Atoll.

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

You can also explore Jozani Forest and see the red colobus monkeys and Prison Island with its giant tortoise. Snorkelling is also enjoyed off Prison Island.

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

Distance: 60 kms

Est. Drive Time: Up to 2 hours

Meals, Day 23: X1 Breakfast

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

### **Zanzibar Island finish**

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

**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**

[Back to Index](#)

### **Gorilla trekking**

On your trip we travel to Kabale in southwest Uganda 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 then 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

[Back to Index](#)

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

*Before you go...*

1. Your price
2. Your airfare
3. Immunisation/anti-malarials
4. Gorilla permit
5. Zanzibar Island 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 545 - 650 USD.
9. Local payment – 550 USD
10. Optional excursions – A traveller who wishes to do most optionals on the trip will spend an average of between 220 - 500 USD (Please see pages 16-17 for the current options available).
11. Visas: 100 - 200 USD depending on nationality  
Purchasing visas in Africa in US dollars for the above passports is currently cheaper than buying ahead of time.
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 approximately 1,000 - 1,200 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 your USD cash a range of is probably the most convenient including a few 5 USD and 10 USD notes as well as 20s, 50s and 100s.

Remember to have suitable notes organised to pay the exact amount for your local payment if at all possible. Your local payment is payable on Day One of the trip.

### Pounds Sterling and Euro cash

You may also like to carry up to 75 GBP/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 Entebbe, you should change up enough money into Ugandan shillings to cover all your personal needs such as any accommodation, transfers and meals before you meet the truck. Please note meals are not provided for the first few days of the safari in Jinja. We would strongly recommend you change up 70 GBP/EUR at Entebbe airport when you arrive if your money is currently in sterling or euro. Otherwise change the equivalent in USD.

When you land in Entebbe there are banks open for international arrivals.

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

### 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 Jinja 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:

Uganda              Ugandan shillings

Rwanda	Rwandan francs
Tanzania	Tanzanian shillings

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

This trip is structured so that many of the costs are on a 'pay as you go' basis 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?**

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

- The Serengeti
- Ngorongoro Crater
- Queen Elizabeth National Park
- The Grumeti Game Reserve
- A game cruise on the Kazinga Channel
- Bujagali
- Lake Victoria
- Ziwa Rhino Sanctuary
- Kigali - Genocide Memorial

#### **WE ALSO INCLUDE**

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

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

- 20 Breakfasts & 19 dinners whilst travelling on the truck including some pre-prepared bbqs and local meals.
- 19 nights camping and 3 nights dorm accommodation in a lodge or similar.

#### **WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED**

- Flights including taxes
- Optional excursions as listed
- Pre and post tour Add Ons as well as airport transfers and accommodation
- Lunch and drinks throughout, and breakfast and dinner when the truck is parked up in Jinja.
- Other incidentals including for tips, internet use, upgrades from camping and the occasional cheap excursion such as local walks
- Visas
- Extra equipment including sleeping bag, torch and medical kit
- Personal travel insurance
- Vaccinations and anti malarials as required

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

### **Personal spending money**

This amount is individual and variations in budgets depend largely on how much you spend on souvenirs and drink, as well as on lunch and snacks.



The spending money is also need to spend on personal costs such as email, toiletries etc. It is a regularly updated weekly average that has been provided by the crew and recent clients. Some weeks you will spend more and other weeks less. The current recommendation to carry as personal spending money for this safari is 545 - 650 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 – traditional drums from Uganda, Tanzanian makonde carvings and stone chess boards, kangas and kikoi, beads and jewellery, to name just a few.

Regularly 'smallish' optional activities costing under 20 USD also arise and these also will be covered by this spending money, as well as the equator water experience near Mbarara.

**Tipping:** You may like to consider tips for good service, particularly at some of the main highlights such as after your gorilla trek and the game drives in 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. Do note these excursions are run by local operators on the ground. They are not run by Absolute Africa.

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

## UGANDA

### *Jinja and the White Nile*

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
At Ziwa rhino sanctuary	
Rhino trekking	30 USD
Shoebill canoe ride	35 USD
Night walk	35 USD
Nature/birding walk	35 USD
Kalinzu Forest Chimpanzee trek	50 USD
<i>At the gorillas</i>	
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 3 people	35 USD
Sunset canoe trekking – Lake Mutanda	10 USD
Coffee tour	35 USD

## **RWANDA**

• Genocide Memorial and Museum	Free
• - Audio Guide	25 USD
Dian Fossey's grave	80 USD
• Transport to Dian Fossey's grave	100 USD/vehicle
• Banana beer making	30 USD
• Basket weaving	10 USD

## **TANZANIA**

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

## Zanzibar Island

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

### Scuba Diving

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

### Snorkeling

• Kendwa from	15 USD
• Tumbutu half day from	25 USD
• Mnemba (inc lunch) from	45 USD

• Prison Island Entry and transport (depending on numbers)	from 25 - 35 USD
--	------------------

• Fishing off the reefs	40 USD
• Deep sea fishing, boat (takes 5 people), half day	from 450 USD
• Turtle Aquarium	20 USD
• Sunset cruise	30 USD

### Jozani Forest – to visit the red colobus monkeys

• From Stone Town (depending on numbers)	from \$30 - \$120
• From North	from \$40 - \$160

## Further information about optional excursions and spending money

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

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

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

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

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

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

Please note also every safari is individual and it is not possible to detail all the possible optionals you

will have a choice to do nor to predict new options that can arise. We will endeavor to provide another accurate price update for you just prior to departure. Please note also though we have no control over local operators' prices or government taxes. Nor do we just select operators on price, many factors have to be weighed up when selecting operators. We are always keen to get information on new operators and the best prices but do be aware that deals come and go constantly in Africa. Consistent service delivery and safe and respectful ethical practices are also worth searching for and rewarding. Your crew will work very hard to ensure you get the best value for money day to day on the road.

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

## What do I need to bring?

[Back to Index](#)

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

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

Do remember traveling light is always wise and particularly when going overland. Passengers also often buy a lot of African souvenirs on the way.

The vehicles have good storage capacity to carry souvenirs and lockups in the vehicle for your valuables, pack and day bag. There is a locker under your seat for easy access for day to day essentials.

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

### You need to bring:

- Travel documents including passport (including visas if you are required to purchase visas ahead of time) and air tickets
- Booking Voucher with Final Receipt – essential for immigration purposes
- Vaccination documentation, particularly for yellow fever shot
- 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 drivers licence
- Photocopies of main documents (keep separately)

### Essential camping equipment

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

### Other items

- Pocket knife
- 1 litre water container. Make sure it screws tight



- Ziploc bags for wet items, rubbish and to keep items dust free
- Towel
- Antibacterial Soap
- Condoms
- Tissues
- A means of securing your hair back is useful such as a bandana, a scarf, beanies, hair ties and clips as it can be windy day to day driving on the truck
- Cigarette lighter
- Concentrated travel washing liquid or washing powder, clothesline
- Emergency sewing kit
- Tweezers, nail scissors, nail brush

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

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

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

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

#### **Consider bringing:**

- Binoculars
- Pillow
- Wet Ones can be useful
- Books
- Writing paper, pens
- Mossie net impregnated with permethrin or similar if you want to sleep out of your tent at any time on safari, particularly in the warmer months (tents have in-built mossie nets at door and openings)

#### **Electrical items**

- Mobile phone  
*Text messaging can be a good way to stay in touch with the outside world. Remember if you are on international roaming the charges will be very high to make and receive phone calls. If communication is very important to you, sim cards can be purchased very cheaply on the road. Some clients have their phone unlocked before arriving in Africa whilst coverage is not always good on this tour.*
- 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

#### **Charging your equipment**

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

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

## Clothes

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

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

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

*Be aware that camouflage clothing should be avoided.*

## Life on your Big Yellow Truck

[Back to Index](#)

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

On safari do follow all instructions given by your safari leader as to how to use equipment, move around on, and enter and exit the truck as well as how to maintain all supplies. Seat belts are fitted on the truck. For your safety please use these. Please also follow all washing and cleaning procedures carefully to avoid infections being spread.

It is essential in order to keep to schedules that you listen at group meetings to know what is happening and when, on the following day. Please follow all instructions carefully in regard to border crossings. Most trucks will also have an information folder on the truck with information as to what is happening for the next few days. For the group to function well you do need to keep informed as to what is happening and use group meetings to help the group work together. Please feel free to discuss any matter with the crew and to use group meetings. Do remember you are on a group safari and it is also as valuable to listen to other people's ideas as well as contribute your own.

On a daily basis you are encouraged to look out for each other and be considerate of everyone else's needs and wishes. Your group will be made up of individuals all wanting to get the most out of their trip and at the same time each of you will have your own specific likes and dislikes, needs and wishes. These are group adventure camping safari, not a 5 star holiday! A sense of humour and patience are essentials to pack! The group experience of seeing your safari through together on the truck is one of the really exciting and fun aspects of the trip. For some, the group experience and day to day life on the truck becomes a main highlight.

Often on the road you will be up early for breakfast. Wherever possible, you buy lunch in local markets and you then have opportunities to mix in with the local community and organise anything you need to including ensuring you have enough drinking water. Remember how important it is to keep up your fluid levels during the trip. Please note we cannot guarantee the provision of regular clean drinking water from the truck throughout the safari and you do need to organise your water day to day. At most campsites the truck can easily access clean drinking water and you will find the water carried on the truck is often drinkable,

particularly once we head south into Tanzania. Where this is not the case it is advisable to buy your own bottled water, which is readily available and most campsites now sell sealed bottled mineral water. When purchasing your water do check that the bottles are sealed.

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

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

## **Schedules and itineraries**

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

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

## **Camping**

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

We also supply high-density foam roll mats.

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

It is a participation trip and part of your every day routine will be to put up your own tent and be involved in all the daily chores on a daily basis including cooking and cleaning. For reasons of personal hygiene, we ask you to supply your own cup, plate and cutlery. You may wish to bring your own 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 dorm-style chalet or simple hut accommodation with a bed if you think you might need a break from camping. This usually costs about 20 USD a night. Availability though is very limited and you need to be considerate of everyone else on the truck. Do budget accordingly though if you might wish to upgrade once or twice en route.

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

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

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

## **Sickness**

All our trucks have a medical kit, which has been put together by tropical expedition specialists for

emergency use only. The foreign embassies throughout Africa provide English-speaking doctors for emergency situations. If you do become ill we will transport you as soon as possible to the nearest health clinic and your crew will do all they can to assist. You will always have a friendly escort.

### **Meals and cooking on the truck**

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

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

### **Specialist diets**

For vegetarians we do all possible to ensure a good supply of veggies, salads, fruits, beans, pastas and rice. The diet leans towards vegetarian day to day, as fresh quality meat is not easily accessed every day. The staples are beans, pastas, pulses, and rice, as well as fresh fruit and vegetables when available and in season. In restaurants, when meals are ordered ahead of time, vegetarian options are available with usually good supplies of fresh fruits, veggies and salads. Do be aware though how spoilt we are in the Western world with our constant supplies of fruit and veggies regardless of the season. In reality, and more naturally, fruit and vegetable supplies are seasonal, may not be as chemically assisted and can also be difficult to access en route. We will do all we can to ensure supplies where possible.

We can also cater for gluten-free, vegans, wheat-free and dairy-free diets, supplying soymilk, rice noodles, gluten-free cereals etc.

When booking, do remember to let us know if you have any specific dietary requests.

### **Safety and security whilst on safari**

Travelling as a group does provide everyone within the group a level of security in itself. Perhaps the two most important factors to always bear in mind when traveling in Africa are to be constantly vigilant as to your own as well as your group's health and security.

### **A few extra things to note**

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

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

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

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

Whilst in Entebbe and/or Kampala before the start of your safari, all valuables should be kept on your body when not locked away. At Red Chilli Hideaway, valuables can be kept in the office at your discretion, and at Entebbe Flight Motel there is an office safe which is available to use. Once you join the truck, valuables can



be locked safely away in a safety deposit box, which is kept hidden within the vehicle. 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 favourable rates.

Your truck will have a lockable safe in which to keep your passport and valuables. You will also have a lockable place on the truck to keep your day bag. Your backpack is stored underneath the truck. The truck is never left unattended. Do be aware on safari you will be required in certain locations to assist with watching that all is safe and secure with other passengers. Please note whilst all precautions will be taken in regards to valuables left on the vehicle we cannot be held responsible for any damage or loss from the vehicle.

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

Before traveling you are also advised to keep yourself informed and up to date as to the current political situation in the countries through which we travel and to check out the Foreign Office Travel Advice. If you are a British, Australian or New Zealand citizen you may like to look at: [www.fco.gov.uk](http://www.fco.gov.uk), [www.dfat.gov.au](http://www.dfat.gov.au) or [www.mfat.govt.nz](http://www.mfat.govt.nz).

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

### **Photography**

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

### **Trading, donating and supporting**

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

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

For projects we support check out the website or contact us.

### **Problems or issues you may have while on the tour**

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

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

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

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

continue to have an enjoyable tour. Further details can be seen in our Terms and Conditions (14).

## **General code of conduct**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## **Keeping in touch**

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

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

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

If you did need to have something sent to you while traveling please contact the office as to the best destination and address to use

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

## **Language**

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

## The Migration

[Back to  
Index](#)

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

For information on where you should be able to see which animal, as well as other useful facts, check out the chart on the following [link](#). For those of you who want to read before you go, here are a few suggested titles:

# What and where?

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

## ABSOLUTE AFRICA



	Group Name	Average Gestation (months)	Average Life Span (years)	Status	Diet	Distribution as at June 2010										
						Kenya	Uganda	Rwanda	Tanzania	Malawi	Zambia	Zimbabwe	Botswana	Namibia	South Africa	
BIG FIVE	Lion	3.7	15	VU	C	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	African Elephant	22	70	VU	H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Cape Buffalo	11	17	LC	H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Leopard	3	20	NT	C	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Rhinoceros	6	35	CR	H	✓	✓	✓	✓	Reintroduced	Reintroduced	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	White	6	35	NT	H	Introduced	Reintroduced	✓	✓	✓	Reintroduced	Reintroduced	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Cheetah	3	11	VU	C	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Spotted Hyena	4	25	LC	O	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	African Wild/Painted Dog	2.5	11	EN	C	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Blue Wildebeest (Gnu)	8.5	20	LC	H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Giraffe	15	28	LC	H	✓	✓	Introduced	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Plains/Burchell's Zebra	12	28	LC	H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Oryx/Gemsbok	8.5	20	LC	H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Sitatunga	7.5	19	LC	H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Greater Kudu	9	7.5	LC	H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Common Eland	9.2	17.5	LC	H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Impala	6.5	12	LC	H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Thomson's Gazelle	6	10.5	NT	H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Genet	7	20	NT	H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Dik-dik	6	3.5	LC	H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Warthog	5.7	15	LC	H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Mountain Gorilla	8.5	45	EN	H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Chimpanzee	8	50	EN	O	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Baboon	6	25	LC	O	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Golden Monkey	5	19	EN	O	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Zanzibar Red Colobus Monkey	6	20	EN	O	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Rock Hyrax/Dassie	7	12	LC	H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Banded Mongoose	1.7	8	LC	C	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Common Genet	2.5	8	LC	O	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Meerkat	2.5	13	LC	O	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Hippopotamus	7.9	50	VU	H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Nile Crocodile	3*	45	LC	C	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Common Bottlenose Dolphin	12	20	LC	C	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	

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

Online @ [www.absoluteafrica.com](http://www.absoluteafrica.com)

Email [absat@absoluteafrica.com](mailto:absat@absoluteafrica.com)

Phone 0208 742 0226

## Reading List

The Africans  
 Malaria Dreams  
 Out of Africa  
 Letters from Africa  
 Venture Into The Interior  
 Gorillas in the Mist  
 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  
 The Last King of Scotland  
 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  
 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  
 Dian Fossey  
 William Boyd  
 Doris Lessing  
 Doris Lessing  
 Peter Matthiessen  
 Peter Matthiessen  
 Alan Paton  
 Martha Gellhorn  
 Giles Foden  
 Giles Foden  
 Peter Godwin  
 Alexandra Fuller  
 Kuki Gallman  
 Sekai Nzenza-Shand  
 Thomas Pakenham  
 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](mailto:bookings@absoluteafrica.com)**

**3rd March 2020**