

# The Wildlife Journey

## MAKE TRACKS FOR AFRICA

This information pack has been put together so that you can prepare for your overland tour. It has been developed over many years of experience overlanding. Please read it carefully.

### Departure dates for the Wildlife Journey

Depart Jinja			Arrive Cape Town			Price	Local Payment
27	Feb	2024	04	May	2024	£3,200	US\$1,060
30	Apr	2024	06	Jul	2024	£3,200	US\$1,060
02	Jun	2024	08	Aug	2024	£3,200	US\$1,060
02	Jul	2024	07	Sep	2024	£3,200	US\$1,060
04	Aug	2024	10	Oct	2024	£3,200	US\$1,060
03	Sep	2024	09	Nov	2024	£3,200	US\$1,060
29	Sep	2024	05	Dec	2024	£3,200	US\$1,060
23	Oct	2024	31	Dec	2024	£3,200	US\$1,060
13	Dec	2024	18	Feb	2025	£3,200	US\$1,060
28	Jan	2025	05	Apr	2025	£3,200	US\$1,060
05	Mar	2025	11	May	2025	£3,200	US\$1,060

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

**Highlights:** Whitewater rafting on the White Nile • Kayaking • Volunteer in a village school • Lake Victoria Ziwa Rhino Sanctuary • Mburu National Park with a game cruise • Genocide Memorial and Museum • Mountain gorilla trek • Golden monkey trek • Dian Fossey's grave • Orphanage visit • The Grumeti • 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 • The Rift Valley • Lake Malawi • Horse riding • South Luangwa National Park • Lake Kariba houseboat • Great Zimbabwe Ruins • Matopos National Park • Rhino trek • Victoria Falls • Whitewater rafting on the Zambezi • Flights over the Falls • Bungee jump • Gorge swing • Sunset cruise • Chobe National Park • Okavango Delta mokoro safari • Etosha National Park • Bushman visit • Africat Carnivore Care • Skeleton Coast • Cape Cross Seal Colony • Swakopmund • Dune quad-biking

- Sandboarding • Tandem skydiving • Township tour • Open-sea fishing • Namib Naukluft National Park
- Sossusvlei dunes • Guided walk on the dunes • Go-karting • Fish River Canyon • Orange River • Stellenbosch • Wine tour • Cape Town.

**Safari structure:** A journey to many of Africa’s special places visiting the gorillas, game drives in the big game parks heading south to Cape Town; stopping at highlights such as Zanzibar, the White Nile, the Serengeti, Lake Malawi, Victoria Falls, the Okavango Delta and the dunes of Namibia. On the safari you might also find travellers with less time who will travel for shorter sections of this safari as well. The safari finishes in Cape Town where you can relax for a few days before returning home. Alternatively you may like to extend your time away and travel along the Garden Route with us through to Johannesburg. Please feel free to contact us for further details.

## 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 6
A detailed guide itinerary	Page 8
Gorilla permits and arrangements for your stay on Zanzibar Island	Page 18
Money and budgeting	Page 20
Packing - what to bring, packing advice incl. electrical equipment	Page 29
Life on your big yellow truck (Includes safety and security, trading and donating, general code of conduct, keeping in touch)	Page 31
The migration	Page 35
Wildlife chart	Page 36
Further reading	Page 37

[Back to Index](#)

## Flights

When arranging your flights we suggest that you arrive any time on the day your safari begins. The international airport near Jinja is Entebbe. Return flights can be arranged to depart from the day after your safari is scheduled to end. Remember we arrive into Cape Town on the last day of the tour, so you may like to allow a couple of days to explore the city and its surrounds before booking your onward flight.

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.

Airlines that fly into Entebbe and out of Cape Town include Virgin, Qatar, Emirates, Kenya Airways, KLM and British Airways.

There are several budget airlines that can be used for the connection from Cape Town to Johannesburg

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

*A friendly reminder – When purchasing 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 travelling with Absolute Africa are of the utmost importance to us, which is why it is essential that you have arranged adequate travel insurance to cover your whole trip.

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

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, tandem sky diving and bungee jumping.*

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

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

## Visa requirements for the Wildlife Journey

Your passport needs to be valid for at least 6 months after your trip finishes. Ensure also that you have enough pages in your passport for each country you visit. Up to 2 consecutive blank pages can be required when you enter South Africa at the end of your trip. As a guide then, for the Wildlife Journey you will need to have a minimum of 10 blank pages (sides).

If you have dual nationality you can only use one passport for the entire trip, but bringing both passports is a wise back-up 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 Wildlife Journey, most passport holders must apply online for a single entry visa for Uganda ahead of time. This is 50 USD.

You can then purchase a single entry Rwandan visa at the border for 30 USD for those that need to pay for this visa. This is payable in USD cash.

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

Other visas on this route for most passport holders including British, Australian, Irish, South African, German, French, Dutch, Canadian and American passport holders can be arranged in Africa en route. Visas at the border can only be paid for in US dollars cash.

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

<b>Passport</b>	<i>Uganda</i>	<i>Rw.</i>	<i>Tanzania</i>	<i>Malawi</i>	<i>Zambia</i>	<i>Zim.</i>	<i>South Africa</i>	<i>Total No.</i>	<i>Total in USD</i>
Australian	\$50	-	\$50	-	-	\$30		3	\$130
New Zealand	\$50	-	\$50	-	-	\$30		3	\$130
South African	\$50	-	-	-	-	-		1	\$50
Canadian	\$50	-	\$50	-	-	\$75		3	\$175
American	\$50	\$30	\$100	-	-	\$30		4	\$210
British	\$50	-	\$50	-	-	\$55		3	\$155
German	\$50	\$30	\$50	-	-	\$30		4	\$160
Dutch	\$50	\$30	\$50	-	-	\$30		4	\$160
Irish	-	\$30	\$100	-	-	\$55		3	\$185
French	\$50	\$30	\$50	-	-	\$30		4	\$160

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

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

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

## Pre and post safari information

[Back to Index](#)

The Wildlife Journey 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 further south 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 final 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. 90 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 = 3,842 Ugandan shillings (*March 2024*).

## At the end of your safari

The Wildlife Journey finishes at Ashanti Lodge at the foot of Table Mountain, Cape Town. Your final night's accommodation is in a dorm at and included in your payment.

The Ashanti holds beds for us ahead of our arrival and the crew will reconfirm with you your exact requirements, including upgrades and/or extended stays, as early as possible after you join the trip. Let your crew know if you want to upgrade; you can then just pay the difference.

Dorm accommodation	approx 20 USD (280 Rand)
Single rooms	approx 45 USD (620 Rand)
Double/twin rooms	approx 60 USD per room per night (840 Rand)
Double/Twin Ensuite	approx 79 USD per room per night (1100 Rand)

Airport transfers approx 18 USD (250 Rand)

Exchange rate at time of writing is approximately 1 USD = 18 ZAR (March 2024)

The Ashanti also has a travel shop which can help you with all your onward arrangements including airport transfers, tours within South Africa including car hire and coach seats to Johannesburg as well as flights and excursions throughout South Africa.

Do remember to budget for any excursions you might wish to do after your safari.

## Typical excursions among many that might be of interest:

• Topless Bus Cape Town City Tour	R245
• Robben Island	R600
Ferry leaves hourly between 9 and 3. Please speak to your leader about booking ahead of time.	
• Cable Car to Table Mountain (return)	R390
• Abseil Table Mountain	R1095
• Paragliding	R1300
• Aquarium	R220
• Township tour	R770
• Cape Malay Cooking Experience - Tuesdays and Saturdays	R825
• Cape Point and Peninsular Tour	R1100
• Skydiving	R2850
• Whale watching tour	R1200
• Wine lands tour	R880
• White Shark Cage Diving - (inc food, transport and drinks)	R2300

## Heading further afield

- We run an Add-On Safari at the end of this safari along the Garden Route to Johannesburg at the discounted price of £1,550 when booked as an add-on to the Wildlife Journey, visiting all the main highlights including white shark dives, the bungee, Cango Caves and The Ostrich Farm. Details can be found @ [www.absoluteafrica.com/summary.lasso?trip\\_code=GR16](http://www.absoluteafrica.com/summary.lasso?trip_code=GR16)

## 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 Stores and Medical Centre in London will provide you with the latest recommendations for travel in Africa.

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

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

You may also like to check out the following websites:

[www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk](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

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

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

Visit [www.nomadtravel.co.uk](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:

<http://www.traveldoctor.com.au/>

<http://www.traveldoctor.co.nz>

<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 a guide only)

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 travelling. They can also advise on possible side effects and which drug might best suit you. Do follow all medical advice given with your prescribed medication. Do be aware that some anti-malarials can have negative side effects and also that your choice of drug needs to be appropriate to protect against strains of malaria specific to the regions in Africa through which you are travelling.

The choices usually suggested are:

Larium, taken 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?' section.

### **General information on avoiding malaria**

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

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

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

### **Other medical issues**

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

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

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

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

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

# The Wildlife Journey itinerary

[Back to Index](#)

## Days 1 – 3: Jinja, Uganda

We meet up at Jinja in the afternoon of Day One at our peaceful camp by the White Nile at Bujagali Falls. Here you can 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, “Nile High” bungee jump, quad bike, swim, fish and horse ride. Take time for a village walk, or many people enjoy volunteering at one of the community projects in the local villages. Sample the local cuisine in the local restaurants or at the campsite.

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

Today we leave Jinja behind to travel to the Ziwa Rhino Sanctuary, the only place to see rhino in Uganda. Here we can choose to go for a rhino trek on foot with a trained ranger in the afternoon, or take an early morning boat trip in the gorgeous swamps of the park – watch out for the prehistoric-looking shoebill!

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

Leaving Jinja, we travel via Kampala. Here we get a chance to have street food, get to banks, wi-fi and shopping.

The next day we leave the camp and head into the lush countryside of Uganda. We stop off at a local drum and craft market. Roadside stalls sell fresh rotisserie meat such as ‘chix on sticks’, and at the Equator stop there is time for a photo shoot.

Today we drive to the simple camp near the hillside forest of Kalinzu on the edge of the Rift Valley and Mburu 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 Mburu National Park

The option of early morning chimpanzee trekking is scheduled for this morning. We head out into the Kalinzu Forest in search of these habituated Chimpanzees. The park also has black and white colobus monkey and other monkey species.

We continue onto our next wildlife destination - Mburu National Park - where we set out on an afternoon game cruise 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, Mbuoro National Park. Conducted in an open cruise vessel. Slow transit afternoon drive, Mbuoro National Park

Vehicle for game drive: Overland truck

*Optional Excursion:* Chimpanzee trek in Kalinzu Forest

### **Days 8 – 9: Mbuoro National Park to Kisoro**

This morning we head into the park again for an early morning game drive where hopefully we find some surprises in amongst the bushes. The park is a haven for around 600 species of bird and the thousands of migratory antelope - the Ugandan Kob.

Then we make our way to Kisoro, stopping over at Kabale to stock up with supplies. A visit to Lake Bunyoni can be arranged on the way to enjoy time on the lake.

Distance, Day 8: 218 kms

Distance, Day 9: 75 kms

Est. Drive Time, Day 8: 7 hours incl. lunch stop

Est. Drive Time, Day 9: 3 hours

Meals: X2 Breakfasts, X2 Dinners

Included wildlife activities: Morning game drive, Mbuoro National Park

Vehicle for game drive: Overland truck

### **Day 10: Kisoro**

We are now in the land of the critically endangered mountain gorilla.

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

There is also an opportunity to trek the lower forest in search of the vibrant golden monkey. A village tour to visit a Batwa or Pygmy village, this indigenous group have sadly been relocated away from the forest but keep many of their traditions, this can also be organised in Kisoro.

Distance: 0 kms

Est. Drive Time: 0 hours

Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Dinner

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

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

Today we leave the beautiful scenery of Uganda and into Rwanda, the "Land of a Thousand Hills". A country that has had a turbulent history but has now moved rapidly forward in an attempt to put their past behind them.

At our camp at Musanze, we can get involved with the local community projects of basket weaving and banana beer making. A cycle tour is also an option for those who wish to explore the local area.

Distance: 51 kms

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

Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Dinner

*Optional excursions:* Golden monkey trek, Banana beer making, Basket weaving, bike tour.

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

Our camp at Musanze is near the Parc National des Volcans, where Dian Fossey worked with the gorillas. Those wanting to head out on the steep trek to see Fossey's grave spend time today in the Rwandan forest. On the trek you can 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.

For those not opting to trek, we continue on through the picturesque hills to Kigali, the capital of Rwanda. For those trekking, a transfer is arranged for later in the day through to Kigali.

We spend the next two nights in Kigali, the modern capital of Rwanda, a country with a recent turbulent history culminating in the 1994 genocide. Here we honour their past by visiting the Genocide Memorial and Museum. We also have a free day in this very European style city for you to relax. Many also 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 grave, Visit to the Genocide museum and memorial, Nyamata Church Memorial.

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

We now cross the border to enter Tanzania below Lake Victoria. Over two days travelling off the beaten track we see a little of the 'real Africa' away from the main tourist drag. We stay in a small local, guest house the first night in Tanzania. We then head towards Mwanza and the south end of Lake Victoria. There is time on our journey to explore the local markets, eat locally and kick a football with the local kids.

Distance over two 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

### **Days 16 – 17: Mwanza to Ngiri, central Serengeti**

Reaching Bunda we prepare for the next exciting part of the tour, the world famous Serengeti National Park and Ngorongoro Crater, ecosystems boasting the Big Five. This afternoon we take on the amazing views by foot on the hill walk near to camp.

We drive through the Grumeti Reserve onto Ikoma Gate, where we enter The Serengeti in our overland truck for game drives. The famous Great Migration passes this area year in and year out in the search of fresh pasture during the months from late April through to August.

The Serengeti is Tanzania's oldest national park. On our slow game drive through the park this afternoon we regularly have wonderful viewing including of the big cats and much other wildlife.

Home to The Big Five, it is famous for the annual migration when more than 200,000 zebra and 300,000 Thomson's gazelle join the wildebeests' trek. Even when the migration is quiet, the Serengeti is home to resident large herds of buffalo, elephant herds and giraffe, as well as thousands upon thousands of eland, topi, kongoni, impala and Grant's gazelle. Hippo pods can be found lazing in water pools, and the park is also home to the big cats – lion, leopard and cheetah and has fabulous birdlife including ostrich and secretary birds.

Distance to Bunda, Day 16: 156 kms

Est. Drive Time, Day 16: 3 – 4 hours incl. lunch stop

Distance to Ikoma Gate, Serengeti, Day 17: 160 kms

Est. Drive Time, Day 17: 5 hours to Ikoma Gate, incl. slow transit through Grumeti.

Meals: X2 Breakfasts, X2 Dinners

Included wildlife activity: Afternoon game drive, Serengeti National Park

Vehicle for game drive: Overland truck

*Optional excursion:* Hill walk

### **Day 18: Central Serengeti 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.

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.

A visit to a Maasai boma and Olduvai Gorge Museum on leaving the park are also part of the day's excursions, depending on timing and road conditions.

Our evening meal and overnight camp are above the Ngorongoro Crater, the world's largest extinct volcano. This is our second night camped in the wilds under African stars with the buffalo grazing outside our tents.

Distance: 161 km

Est. Drive Time: 5 hours

Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Dinner

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

Vehicle for game drive: Overland truck

*Optional excursions:* Balloon safari, Maasai boma visit

Olduvai Gorge Museum depending on road conditions. Please note if you wish to visit Olduvai Museum you must let the office know prior to the tour departure.

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

An early rise and we are on the road again in small 4x4s. We begin with a 2,000 ft. descent into the Ngorongoro Crater, the world's largest extinct volcano. Here, with a little luck, we can view rhino, hippo, lion, elephant, hyena, buffalo, zebra, impala, wildebeest, cheetah, monkey, ostrich and flamingo.

After our morning game drives in the Crater and a picnic lunch, we travel to our camp in Arusha glad to enjoy a welcome hot shower after our days in the bush. We stop at traditional markets on the way such as at the village of Mto Wa Mbu, where Maasai display ebony carvings, spears and beadwork. Tonight we enjoy a group barbecue to celebrate all we have seen across the different game parks of Uganda, Rwanda and Tanzania.

Distance: 195 km

Est. Drive Time: 3 - 4 hours

Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Dinner

Included wildlife activity: Morning game drive in the 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.

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

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

Distance, Day 20: 120 kms

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 resume our journey today, heading south to the Tanzanian coast.

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

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

Distance: 485 (545 if to Dar) kms  
Est. Drive Time: 9 - 10 hours incl. lunch stop (11 - 12 if to Dar es Salaam)  
Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Dinner

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

This morning you can join us for a transfer by ferry for four days on magical Zanzibar Island. The safari leader will travel over with the group.

Zanzibar has a very special magic. A stay on Zanzibar allows you a break from truck life. We head first for the beach where we spend three nights. Here is your chance to relax on palm-fringed white beaches, enjoy fresh seafood, and swim and snorkel in crystal-clear coral waters.

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

Excursions include snorkeling trips to Prison Island, famous for its giant tortoise, as well as Mnemba Atoll, dolphin boat trips, a trek in Jozani Forest to see the red colobus monkeys, visiting the turtle sanctuary and fishing. Scuba diving can be arranged from the dive centre near the beach cottages.

On the last day of our stay we head back to traditional Stone Town, the capital, where you will be confronted by a maze of narrow alleyways. Enjoy the bustle of the evening seafood markets and sip sundowners at Africa House. A spice tour, including a visit to a former slave camp, will also be arranged providing some history on the island.

Distance, Day 23: 60 kms Bagamoyo to Dar es Salaam  
Est. Drive Time, Day 23: Up to 2 hours Bagamoyo to Dar es Salaam  
Meals: Day 23: X1 Breakfast

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

### **Day 27: Zanzibar to Morogoro**

Leaving the island on the ferry, we re-join with the truck and head west to Morogoro where we stay the night before continuing our journey.

Distance: 194 kms  
Est. Drive Time: 6 hours  
Meals: X1 Dinner

### **Day 28: Morogoro to Iringa**

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

Distance: 310 kms

Est. Drive Time: 9 hours incl. lunch stop  
Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Dinner

### **Days 29 - 32: Iringa to Kande, Malawi**

Our journey today brings us into Malawi by lunchtime. Malawi is known as 'Africa's warm heart'. We camp along several beaches on the shores of Lake Malawi for the next few days. The lake is another of Africa's great lakes and forms one fifth of Malawi's total area.

There is now the chance to bask in the warm African sun and also try a little fishing with the locals. 95% of the fish in Malawi's waters are found nowhere else in the world and there are approximately 400 species in the lake, including colourful tropical fish, Malawi cichlids.

We can take village walks and hikes too. There is always a welcome from the villagers with a meal and always time for a game of football!

Local craftsmen sell ornate hardwood carvings including traditional Malawi chairs. The unspoilt highland regions provide some of the most beautiful scenery on the trip, making hiking very popular here. The plateaux are filled with roaming herds of zebra and antelope and we can also enjoy a wide variety of water sports on the lake, including hiring a pedalo, scuba diving and canoeing.

Distance, Day 29: 498 kms  
Est. Drive Time, Day 29: 11 hours (depending on the border)  
Distance, Day 30 or 31: 235 kms  
Est. Drive Time, Day 30 or 31: +/- 5 hours incl. stop for shopping  
Meals: X4 Breakfasts, X4 Dinners

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

### **Days 33 – 34: Lake Malawi to South Luangwa National Park, Zambia**

We leave the tranquil villages by the lake and head onto our next country, Zambia, and one of its national treasures: South Luangwa National Park. Luangwa is a stunning national park set off the beaten track, with high populations of game, including 60 different animal species and 400 different bird species.

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

Distance: 600 kms  
Est. Drive Time, Day 33: +/- 11 hours (depending on the border) and incl. stops for shopping and lunch  
Meals: X2 Breakfasts, X2 Dinners

Included wildlife activity: X1 game drive in South Luangwa National Park  
Vehicle for game drive: Open 4x4 safari vehicle

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

### **Days 35 – 36: South Luangwa to Lusaka**

We stop over usually in Chipata en route to Lusaka, the capital of Zambia. Here we can enjoy modern amenities, supermarkets and access to internet. We stock up on supplies particularly for our next excursion on a houseboat on Lake Kariba.

Distance over two days: 560 kms  
Est. Drive Time, Day 35: +/- 6 hours incl. stop for lunch and shopping  
Est. Drive Time, Day 36: +/- 6 hours  
Meals: X2 Breakfasts, X2 Dinners

### **Days 37 - 38: Lusaka to Lake Kariba, Zimbabwe**

### **Optional stay on Lake Kariba houseboats**

Crossing into Zimbabwe we head to Lake Kariba.

Here we can hire a houseboat to head out on the lake to enjoy nature at its best. We cruise through Matusadona National Park to see wildlife at the water's edge including elephant, waterbuck and, if we are lucky, lion. There are crocodiles and hippo in the lake, and sunsets over the Lake are beautiful.

The houseboats are furnished with beds and the boat crew do our cooking so this excursion offers a respite from camping and truck life. There is a jacuzzi and the lake is particularly famous for tiger fish. This is a great excursion for those who enjoy fishing and we can take tender boats out on the lake to fish as well as get up close to wildlife.

Distance, Day 37: 208 kms

Est. Drive Time, Day 37: 4 - 5 hours depending on the border and incl. photo stop at Lake Kariba dam wall

Meals: X2 Breakfasts, X2 Dinners

*Optional excursion:* Houseboat cruise on Lake Kariba

### **Days 39 – 40: Lake Kariba to Great Zimbabwe Ruins**

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

Distance, Day 39: 249 kms

Est. Drive Time, Day 39: +/- 6 hours incl. shopping stop

Distance, Day 40: 440 kms

Est. Drive Time, Day 40: 9 hours incl. shopping and lunch stops

Meals: X2 Breakfasts, X2 Dinners

### **Days 41 - 42: Great Zimbabwe Ruins to Bulawayo**

This morning we have a guided tour of the ruins before continuing on our way to the city of Bulawayo, Zimbabwe's second largest city.

Here we are in for a special treat, another highlight of the tour, a rhino trek with game drives in Matopos National Park. Our guide here is one of Zimbabwe's most knowledgeable guides, taking us up close to both black and white rhinoceros. As well as rhino, sable antelope, giraffe, zebra, ostrich, impala and leopard all make their home in this hauntingly beautiful park, which also has a large black eagle population. This park has spectacular scenery, the large balancing granite boulders lending themselves to the name Matopos, meaning 'Bald Head', which was chosen by the leader and founder of the Ndebele nation Mzilikazi. This is the burial place of early white settlers and Cecil Rhodes chose it at his last resting place. Up in the hills the early San Bushmen cave paintings can be seen.

Distance, Day 41: 307 kms

Est. Drive Time, Day 41: 3 - 4 hours

Meals: X2 Breakfasts, X2 Dinners

Included activities: Visit to Great Zimbabwe with guided tour, Game drive and rhino trek, Matopos National Park

Vehicle for game drive: Open 4x4 safari vehicle

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

### **Day 43: Bulawayo to Victoria Falls**

We drive through to the banks of the Zambezi and the mighty Victoria Falls – 'Mosi-Oa-Tunya' the Smoke That Thunders.

The Falls are comprised of five separate waterfalls. In flood season over 545 million litres of water crash

down the 100 metre height of the Falls along a width of 1,688 metres. Mists from the Falls rise many metres into the air and have given rise to a lush tropical rainforest along the Fall's edge.

Distance: 438 kms

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

Meals: X1 Breakfast

### **Days 44 – 45: Victoria Falls**

We stay a couple of days to absorb all that the area has to offer – from adrenalin-pumping activities, fun bars and restaurants.

White water rafting on the Zambezi, on what are regarded as some of the best rapids in the world, is a must. Kayaking, river boarding or more leisurely canoe trips are all on offer too. A 'Flight of the Angels', over the Falls, offers a unique appreciation of one of nature's greatest wonders. And for the ultimate rush you can bungee jump from a bridge across the river, or try the abseil, gorge swing and zip line activities. Later, a sundowner cruise is the perfect way to complete the day, watching hippo loll in the Zambezi as the sun sets.

Distance: 0 kms

Est. Drive Time: 0 hours

Meals: None

*Optional excursions:* Rainforest walk – Victoria Falls, whitewater rafting, riverboard, bungee jump, gorge swing, flying fox and zip line, 'Flight of Angels', canoe trip, horse riding, a sundowner cruise

### **Days 46 – 47: Victoria Falls to Kasane, Botswana**

We leave Victoria Falls bound for Kasane and Chobe National Park. Giraffe browse the treetops and elephant lumber through a park rich with game, the Chobe elephant population comprising part of what is believed to probably be the largest surviving continuous elephant population. The park also boasts zebra, impala, tsessebe, roan, sable, wildebeest, kudu, buffalo, waterbuck, warthog, eland and accompanying predators including lion, hyena, jackal, bat-eared fox and possibly even cheetah and wild dog.

Distance, Day 46: 87 kms

Est. Drive Time, Day 46: 3 hours (depending on the border)

Meals: X2 Breakfasts, X2 Dinners

*Optional excursions:* Chobe National Park – game drives and game cruise

### **Day 48: Kasane to Maun**

We now travel to Maun, which will be the base for excursions into the Okavango Delta. Our route is a scenic one taking us via the Makgadikgadi Pans.

Distance: 666 kms

Est. Drive Time: 9 hours incl. stop for lunch

Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Dinner

### **Days 49 - 51: Maun - Optional mokoro safari in the Okavango Delta**

We now have the option of a two night safari into the Okavango Delta in a mokoro, the traditional dugout canoe of the Delta boatmen. We are poled through the tranquil, crystal clear waterways and beds of papyrus reeds, home to some of Africa's finest bird life and unusual flora, with the chance to also see elephant, hippo, crocodile and the special sitatunga and lechwe. We camp on small islands to take guided game walks during our stay. A sunset mokoro ride is a very special treat. We return to Maun for one last night.

Distance: 0 kms

Est. Drive Time: 0 hours

Meals: X3 Breakfasts, X3 Dinners

*Optional excursions:* Okavango Delta mokoro (traditional canoe) safari including X2 breakfasts and X2 dinners. Flights over the Delta

### **Days 52 – 54: Maun to Etosha National Park**

Leaving Maun we head for Namibia. On the way to Namibia's most well known National Park, Etosha, we stop to see the Hoba meteorite, the world's largest and we also make a cultural visit to traditional Bushmen near Grootfontein.

Our travels then continue, to take us to Etosha to camp within Namibia's most famous game park.

Distance over three days: 1,111 kms

Est. Drive Time, Day 52: +/- 13 hours (depending on the border) incl. lunch stop

Est. Drive Time, Day 53: 4 - 5 hours

Est. Drive Time, Day 54: +/- 5 hours to Etosha entrance, then afternoon game drives in Etosha

Meals: X3 Breakfasts, X3 Dinners

Included wildlife activity: Afternoon game drives, Etosha National Park.

*Optional excursions:* Walk with warrior bushmen, visit women's village, Hoba meteorite

### **Day 55: Etosha National Park**

Etosha is a 22,270 sq km game park centred round the vast Etosha Pan. Etosha is one of the world's greatest conservation areas - a sanctuary for large herds of African plains game including the big five – lion, elephant, leopard, buffalo and rhino. Thousands of water birds flock to the seasonally inundated Pans after the summer rains whilst at other times of the year the Pans are famous for their shimmering mirages.

We take an early morning game drive, to make the most of our two night stay in the park. An optional evening drive is also available, following the regular afternoon game drives. Visiting the floodlit water holes at night is also a special treat in this park.

Distance: 0 kms

Est. Drive Time: Game drives through the day

Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Dinner

Included wildlife activity: Full day game drive in Etosha National Park

Vehicle for game drives: Overland truck

*Optional excursion:* Evening game drive

### **Day 56: Etosha National Park to Africat, Otjiwarongo**

We have a final morning game drive this morning. Leaving Etosha we head south to visit the Africat Foundation which is a non-profit organization focusing on the conservation of Namibia's predators, particularly cheetah, in their natural habitat. Here we can actively take part in the programme and learn more about these beautiful and amazing animals.

Distance: 182 kms

Est. Drive Time: 7 hours incl. short game drive and stops for shopping and lunch

Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Dinner

Included wildlife activities: Short game drive in Etosha, Africat carnivore care

Vehicle for game drive: Overland truck

### **Days 57 – 58: Otjiwarongo to Swakopmund**

There is an option of an early game drive this morning before heading past Brandberg Mountain, Namibia's highest, to Spitzkoppe, camping out under the stars in the wild.

We then head southwards towards the coast of Namibia and the Cape Cross Seal Colony, a breeding colony of 200,000 Cape fur seals. You can spot the large stone cross that gives this place its name, erected on this site by Portuguese explorers in the 16th century. Then it's on to Swakopmund, home to some of the finest open-sea fishing in the world, a little piece of Germany on the south west coast of Africa. Here we check in to a lodge to give us a break from life on the truck and camping.

Distance over two days: 534 kms



Est. Drive Time, Day 57: 4 hours  
Est. Drive Time, Day 58: +/- 4.5 hours  
Meals: X2 Breakfasts, X1 Dinner

Included wildlife activity: Cape Cross Seal colony visit

*Optional excursions:* Morning game drive, Africat. Guided walk incl. viewing of rock paintings

### **Days 59 - 60: Swakopmund**

For the adrenalin junkie Swakopmund has a lot on offer. There is quad biking, sand boarding, dune buggies and tandem skydiving. Go-karting is always fun. Township tours are also available as well as a dolphin cruise and open sea fishing. There are also options of flights over the magnificent Namib Desert and the Skeleton Coast.

Distance: 0 kms  
Est. Drive Time: 0 hours  
Meals: None

*Optional excursions:* Quad-biking, sandboarding, skydiving, go-karting, desert tours, open-sea fishing, seal and dolphin cruise, sea kayaking, township tours, horse riding..

### **Day 61: Swakopmund to Sesriem**

The Namib is a desert wonderland. Sossusvlei, within the Namib Naukluft National Park, offers thousand-foot sand dunes to explore. In the afternoon we can go to Sesriem canyon for a walk.

Distance: 344 kms  
Est. Drive Time: 8.5 hours incl. lunch stop  
Meals: X1 Dinner

### **Days 62 – 63: Sesriem to Ai Ais**

We wake before sunrise to climb the famous Dune 45 for fabulous views. After this there is the option to go to Sossusvlei by 4x4 to visit the Dead vlei pan and see more of this harsh but beautiful landscape.

Fish River Canyon, reputedly the second largest in the world, is our next destination and is situated on the lower Fish River. There is time here to stretch our legs for a few hours hike and to check out the spectacular views. The enormous gorge meanders along a distance of approximately 160 km through the fissured Koubis Massif all the way down to Ai-Ais Hot Springs.

Distance over two days: 613 kms  
Est. Drive Time, Day 62: +/- 5 hours  
Est. Drive Time, Day 63: +/- 9 hours incl. stop at the Canyon  
Meals: X2 Breakfasts, X2 Dinners

Included activities: Visit to Dune 45, visit to Fish River Canyon.

*Optional excursion:* visit to Sossusvlei

### **Day 64: Ai Ais to Orange River**

Today we head to camp by the wild and beautiful Orange River. We have the option to canoe on the river. The river marks the border between Namibia and South Africa.

Distance: 179 kms  
Est. Drive Time: 3 hours incl. shopping  
Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Dinner

*Optional excursion:* Canoeing on the Orange River

### **Days 65 - 67: Orange River to Stellenbosch, South Africa**

It is a short journey today into our final destination – Cape Town. We spend our last night together at The Ashanti Lodge, situated at the base of Cape Town's famous 1,000-metre Table Mountain.

Cape Town is a wonderful place to relax with plenty of attractions, shopping and cocktail bars.

Distance over two days: 678 kms

Est. Drive Time, Day 65: +/- 10 hours incl. shopping and lunch stop (depending on the border)

Est. Drive Time, Day 65: 6 hours

Meals: X2 Breakfasts, X1 Dinner

*Optional excursion: Wine tour*

### **Day 68: Stellenbosch to Cape Town**

It is a short journey today into our final destination – Cape Town. We spend our last night together at The Ashanti Lodge, situated at the base of Cape Town's famous 1,000-metre Table Mountain.

Cape Town is a wonderful place to relax with plenty of attractions, shopping and cocktail bars.

The Travel Shop at Ashanti can assist you with bookings in Cape Town including a visit to the Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve or exploring further including pony trekking in Lesotho, hikes in the Drakensberg Mountains, a safari in Kruger National Park, and travelling through to the KwaZulu-Natal coast for some excellent surfing.

If you wish, you can continue along the Garden Route to Johannesburg with us. Our Garden Route Safari follows on from our arrival in Cape Town departing three days later. It takes in highlights along the coastline including the beaches of Jeffrey's Bay, the Bloukrans bungee, Addo Elephant Park and finishes in Johannesburg, "the City of Gold".

Distance: 53 kms

Est. Drive Time: 2 - 3 hours

Meals: X1 Dinner (contribution to the final restaurant meal)

*Optional excursion: Meal out at a restaurant*

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

## **Other information**

[Back to Index](#)

### **Gorilla trekking**

On your trip we travel to south-west Uganda to Kabale 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 Bwindi National Park, or alternatively Mgahinga 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 them, 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 snorkelling 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. Singles are also available, for which there is a supplement.

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

### *Before you go...*

1. Your price
2. Your airfare
3. Immunisation and anti-malarials
4. Gorilla permit
5. Zanzibar Island stay
6. Insurance
7. Equipment
8. Visas payable prior to arrival

### *Step off the plane in Africa with...*

9. Spending money – This is very individual and often depends on how much you drink, shop and wish to upgrade. A suggested budget would be 1,320 - 1,600 USD.
10. Local Payment – 1,060 USD .
11. Optional excursions – A traveller who wishes to do most optionals on the trip will spend an average of between 900 - 1,500 USD
12. Visas payable on the ground: Up to 155 USD depending on nationality
13. Pre and Post safari costs

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

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

## **How do I take this money to Africa?**

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

### **USD cash**

We are finding that clients find it most convenient to take between approximately 2,000 - 2,200 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 2009 or later and in good condition. When arranging your USD cash, a range of denominations is probably the most convenient including 5 USD and 10 USD notes as well as 20s, 50s and 100s.

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

### **Pounds Sterling and Euro cash**

You may also like to carry up to 100 - 200 GBP or EUR cash as well if your money is currently in sterling or euro. This can be useful to buy local currency when you can get to a bank or regular forex bureau. If you are not in sterling or euro consider carrying more USD cash.

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

Sterling and euro are best carried as 20s and 50s to be used to buy local currency when you can get to a

bank or forex bureau. Please note also that Scottish pound notes are not accepted.

When you arrive in 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 places like Jinja, Victoria Falls, Swakopmund and Cape Town 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
Malawi	Malawi kwacha
Zambia	Zambian kwacha
Botswana	Botswana pula
Namibia	Namibian dollars
South Africa	South African rand

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

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

### **What we cover from the price and local payment?**

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

- The Serengeti
- Ngorongoro Crater
- South Luangwa National Park

- Entry to Matopos National Park with a rhino trek
- Etosha National Park (two nights)
- Mburu National Park
- A game cruise in Mburu National Park
- The Grumeti Game Reserve
- Bujagali
- Ziwa Rhino Sanctuary
- Kigali - Genocide Memorial
- Namib Naukluft National Park
- Mikumi National Park
- Bushmen visit
- Africat Carnivore care
- Sossusvlei Dunes
- Cape Cross Seal Colony
- Spitzkoppe rock formations or similar
- Fish River Canyon
- Lake Victoria
- Lake Malawi

#### WE ALSO INCLUDE

- A fully equipped and dieselled 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.

- 54 breakfasts & 53 dinners whilst travelling on the truck, including some pre-prepared bbqs and local meals
- 51 nights camping whilst with the truck, plus 9 nights in dorm accommodation in a lodge or similar.

#### WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- Flights including taxes
- Optional excursions as listed
- Pre and post tour Add Ons as well as airport transfers and accommodation
- Lunch and drinks throughout, as well as breakfast and dinner when the truck is parked up at Jinja, Dar es Salaam, Victoria Falls, Swakopmund and Stellenbosch.
- 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
- Other incidentals including for tips, internet use, upgrades from camping and the occasional cheap excursion such as local walks
- Personal Travel Insurance

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 drinks, as well as on lunch and snacks. It is a regularly updated average that has been provided by the crew and recent clients.

The spending money budget is also calculated to cover meals and occasionally camping those times when the truck is not on the road. In some destinations where there are popular overnight excursions such as on Zanzibar Island or on the houseboats on Lake Kariba meals and camping are not covered. At other busy destinations such as Jinja and Victoria Falls accommodation is covered but there is so much happening it is impractical to organise meals from the truck. You may also need to spend on personal costs such as email, toiletries etc. Some weeks you will spend more and other weeks less. The current recommendation to carry as personal spending money for this safari is 1,320 - 1,600 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 in Uganda, Tanzanian makonde carvings and stone chess boards, kangas and kikois, beads and jewellery, Malawi chairs, wooden giraffes and batiks to name just a few.

Regularly ‘smallish’ optional activities costing under 20 USD also arise, such as entry to ‘Mosi-oa-Tunya’ to see the Victoria Falls. These also will be covered by this spending money. Also, some clients like to buy a T-shirt at Victoria Falls as a souvenir of one of the many activities you might try, or a DVD of ‘the big day out’. The Falls is also one of the places where the local restaurants offer huge variety and after weeks on the road, you might be tempted to try them, or even the nightclub or the casino!

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

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

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

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

## Optional activities

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

Please contact us if you would like further information about any of these activities or excursions. Many of the optionals are payable in Africa in USD (cash). A few may be payable in local currencies. (Prices are given as a guide only as at March 2024)

### UGANDA

#### *Jinja and the White Nile*

White Water rafting packages	
Whitewater rafting on the White Nile (full day 30 km) grade 5 rapids with breakfast, light lunch, dinner, sodas and beers	140 USD
Whitewater rafting on the White Nile (half day)	115 USD
Extreme Rafting	160 USD
Full day rafting/river board trip	160 USD
Combos	
Raft and cruise	160 USD
Extreme raft and cruise	180 USD
Tandem kayak and cruise	180 USD
Riverboard and cruise	180 USD
SUP (Stand up paddle boarding) rental per hour	15 USD
2 hour Bujagali SUP tour	40 USD
Nile Sup ½ day guided trip	95 USD
Source of the Nile lunch cruise	30 USD
Nile sunset cruise with snacks/drinks	45 USD
Bungee jump - 44 metres over the Nile river	95 USD





<b>Scuba Diving</b>	
• 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
<b>Snorkeling</b>	
• 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
<b>Jozani Forest – to visit the red colobus monkeys</b>	
• From Stone Town (depending on numbers)	from \$30 - \$120
• From North	from \$40 - \$160
<b>MALAWI</b>	
• Scuba Diving Lake Malawi – introductory course	45 USD
• Scuba diving – 2 qualified dives	90 USD
• Scuba Diving – night dive	55 USD
• Canoe rental	15 USD
• Pedalo boat	25 USD/hr
• Snorkelling	20 USD
• Boat ride to Island (Min 4 people)	from 10 USD
• 1 hour horse forest ride	35 USD
• 1 hour horse riding including swim/ride	45 USD
• 2 hour horse riding including swim/ride	70 USD
• 3 hour horse riding including swim/ride	90 USD
<b>ZAMBIA</b>	
• South Luangwa extra game drive	45 USD
• Walking safari	53 USD
<b>ZIMBABWE</b>	
• Lake Kariba Houseboats for two nights	170 USD
• Fishing including park fees, rod, bair, hooks & sinkers	20 USD
• Extension to full day, Matopos National Park	45 USD
<b>Victoria Falls by the Zambezi</b>	
• Victoria Falls Entrance	50 USD
Please note these prices do not include a Zambian visa if you need to cross over. The Zambian day visa is 20 USD if you need to pay for a visa for Zambia.	
• “Flight of the Angels” over Victoria Falls: Depending on time in the air and type of craft -	
• Microlite (Zambia) 15 mins	185 USD
• Microlite (Zambia) 30 mins	366 USD
• Helicopter Flights	
• Flights of Angels 15 mins (Zim side)	150 USD
• Zambezi Spectacular 25 mins (Zim side)	284 USD
<b>White water rafting packages</b>	
• Whitewater rafting full day low water only	120 USD

• Whitewater rafting, half day high water only	120	USD
• Whitewater rafting/riverboarding package (minimum 4 pax)	190	USD
(subject to water levels)		
• Rafting DVD	30	USD
Horse back safaris		
• Horse Rides - Novice, 2.5 hours	95	USD
• Horse Rides - Experienced – 4 hours	95	USD
• Village tour (includes return transfers from Victoria Falls, approx 3 hrs)	60	USD
Bungee Jumping		
• Bungee Jump (111 metres - 3rd highest commercial bungee in the world)	160	USD
• Bridge slide	45	USD
• Tandem bridge slide	70	USD
• Bridge swing	160	USD
• Tandem bridge swing	240	USD
Gorge activities		
• Gorge Swing only (1 jump)	103	USD
• Tandem gorge swing	156	USD
• Single flying fox	53	USD
• Single zip line	83	USD
• Tandem zip line	127	USD
• Canopy Tour	64	USD
• Big Air Combo, 1x bungee, 1x bridge swing, 1x bridge slide	220	USD
• Half day adrenaline - 2 x gorge swing, zip line, flying fox	158	USD
• Half day adrenaline/Canopy tour	198	USD
Adventure Pass 1	320	USD
• Any 2 of the following with a sunset cruise		
• Half day rafting	Elephant interaction	
• Full day rafting	15 minute Helicopter	
• Bungee jump	Adventure jetboat (seasonal)	
• Game walk	Game drive	
Adventure pass 2	385	USD
• Any 3 of the following activities		
• Half day rafting	Elephant interaction	
• Full day rafting	15 minute Helicopter	
• Bungee jump	Adventure jetboat (seasonal)	
• Game walk	Game drive	
Upper Zambezi Canoeing		
• Zambezi drift - incl. transfers, b'fast, drinks and park fees (7am-2.30 pm)	150	USD
• Wine drift	70	USD
• Half day Canoe Safari including park fees	125	USD
• Full day Canoe Safari including park fees	150	USD
Zambezi River Cruises		
• Sunset/ booze cruise (inc transfer,full bar and snacks)	50	USD
• Dinner/sundowner cruise (inc transfers,full bar,snacks and 3 course dinner)	90	USD
• Zambian day visa (if required)	20	USD
• Devils Pool ( incl breakfast)	110	USD
• Devils Pool ( incl lunch)	175	USD

- Devils Pool (incl high tea) 150 USD
- \*subject to availability and season  
 \*\*visa for Zambia and transfers not included

### **BOTSWANA**

- Chobe National Park - game cruise and guided game drives 1040 Pula
- Chobe River cruise 580 Pula
- Chobe National Park - guided game drives 580 Pula
- Okavango Delta guided mokoro safari, two nights three days 185 USD
- Flight over the Delta - max 5 per plane 1 hour 625 USD

### **NAMIBIA**

- Bushmen village activities (warrior walk, women's village etc.) (200 - 300 N\$) approx 15-20 USD
- Night game drives in Etosha National Park (N\$750) approx 55 USD
- Game drive at Africat reserve (N\$750) approx 55 USD

### *Swakopmund*

- Tandem skydive 3800 N\$
- Sandboarding including lunch with beers and sodas - lie down 600 N\$
- Sandboarding - stand up 700 N\$
- Sandboarding - spectator 100 N\$
- Quad biking 2 hours on the dunes 790 N\$
- Open sea fishing 1600 N\$
- Township tour with traditional lunch 600 N\$
- Sea kayaking 850 N\$
- Living desert tour 800 N\$
- Moon landscape and Welwichia tour 850 N\$
- Seals and Dolphin Cruise 950 N\$
- Horse riding 1,5 hours sunset tour 970 N\$
  
- Sossusvlei visit 170 N\$

### **SOUTH AFRICA**

- Canoeing on the Orange River, 2 hours R 480
- Wine tour R 650

Options for consider if you have extra time after your trip in and around Cape Town

- Topless Bus Cape Town City Tour from 245 Rand
  - Robben Island 600 Rand
- Ferry leaves hourly between 9 and 3. Please speak to your leader about booking ahead of time*
- Cable Car to Table Mountain (return) 390 Rand
  - Abseil Table Mountain 1095 Rand
  - Paragliding 1300 Rand
  - Aquarium 220 Rand
  - Township tour 770 Rand
  - Cape Malay Cooking Experience 825 Rand
  - Cape Point and Peninsula Tour 1100 Rand
  - Skydiving 2850 Rand
  - Whale watching tour 1200 Rand
  - Wine Lands tour 880 Rand
  - White Shark Cage Diving - (incl food, transport & drinks) 2300 Rand

Please be aware that shark diving is very weather dependent so do get your booking in as early and quickly with time allowed if possible the next day in case you cant go on your original booked date.

### **Further information in regards to optional excursions and spending money**

Paying for excursions in Africa allows you to decide what you wish to do as you travel. Bear in mind that some activities such as whitewater rafting and game park visits can be seasonal. Please note also that

prices constantly fluctuate in Africa, partly due to exchange rate fluctuation. The above figures are the very latest currently available to us at the time of writing.

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

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

If you choose not to do an optional activity, do bear in mind that this is your chance to catch up on washing and 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 – eg. safe places to take local walks that might be available, swim, cycle, hire a canoe, kick a soccer ball around with the local kids, go fishing, camel ride, visit the local markets or post office, a cinema, a museum, golf course, church, club or coffee shop.

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

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

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

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

## What do I need to bring?

[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, which should be large enough to carry your needs for two to three days at a time. Please note we reserve the right to refuse any extra baggage and sending it home or storing it will be at your own cost.

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

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

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

The following list details essentials as well as non-essentials. It is a guide only. If you are unsure about

specific items please feel free to ring us.

### **You need to bring:**

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

### **Other items to consider**

- Student/YHA card
- PADI licence/diving ticket
- International driver's 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 4 bottles
- Insect repellent spray
- High-factor sunblock cream
- Lip salve/Chap Stick
- Padlock
- Small personal medical kit including: anti-malarials, vitamin tablets, paracetamol, antibiotic powder, Band-Aids, cotton wool, sterile gloves, flu medication for coughs, colds and sinuses, rehydration salts, sports injury cream for sprains, an antihistamine, immodium, eyedrops, treatment for tummy bugs, stings/bites and sunburn. If you wear contact lenses you are advised to carry disposables.

### **Other items**

- Pocketknife
- 1 litre water container (make sure it screws tight)
- Non-plastic bags for wet items, rubbish and to keep items dust-free
- Towel and anti-bacterial soap
- Condoms
- Tissues
- A means of securing your hair back is useful such as a bandana, a scarf, beanies, hair ties and clips as it can be windy driving on the truck
- Cigarette lighter
- Concentrated travel washing liquid or washing powder, 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 that 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 gynaecological problems that may occur whilst travelling in Africa are thrush and urinary tract infections. If you know you are prone to either of these it may pay to seek advice from your doctor and bring the necessary treatments. Loose fitting, cotton underwear and clothes are always wise.

### **Consider bringing:**

- Binoculars
- Pillow
- Wet Ones can be useful

- Books
- Writing paper, pens
- Mossie net impregnated with permethrin or similar if you want to sleep out of your tent at any time on safari, particularly in the warmer months (the tents we provide 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
- Smart phone or Music player including headphones if you want to listen to your own music
- Camera in a protective case and spare memory card(s)
- For SLR cameras we recommend a telephoto of 120 mm (or similar) or an 80-200 mm zoom
- 2 camera batteries, including a new one
- Polarising filter/lens hood for SLRs
- USB cable – to connect to internet cafes or for downloading
- Camcorder

### Charging your equipment

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

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

### Clothes

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

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

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

*Be aware that camouflage clothing should be avoided.*

## Life on your Big Yellow Truck

[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, 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 carry an information folder with information as to what is happening for the next few days. For the group to function well you do need to keep yourself informed about upcoming arrangements. Group meetings are essential to help the group work together.

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

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

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

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

### **Schedules and itineraries**

When you go on safari do remember our aim at all times is to enable you to have an experience of a lifetime at an affordable price. Due to the nature of Africa – weather, politics, road conditions, lack of infrastructure, border restrictions, breakdown, sickness, etc. – it is not always possible to exactly follow

departure/arrival dates and routes. The best plans can unravel and in a lot of ways that is all part of the adventure that makes your safari. Itineraries and truck schedules can be changed at any stage prior to or during your safari particularly in consideration of crew needs, weather and road conditions as well as security concerns, truck servicing requirements and booking patterns. Whilst we do all we can to avoid making changes please note we do reserve the right to change vehicles and/or crew on a safari at any time without notifying passengers.

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

### **Camping**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **Sickness**

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

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

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

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

### **Specialist diets**

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

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



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

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

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

### **Personal safety**

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

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

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

Once you join the truck, valuables can be locked safely away in a safety deposit box, which is kept hidden within the vehicle.

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

### **Truck security**

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

Do listen carefully to all instructions regarding security issues given by your crew and local operators as we travel. Before travelling you are also advised to keep yourself informed and up to date as to the current political situation in the countries through which we travel and to check out the Foreign Office Travel Advice. If you are a British, Australian or New Zealand citizen you may like to look at: [www.fco.gov.uk](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 group member's health and security. All in your group will appreciate your co-operation with this.

### **Photography**

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

## **Trading, donating and supporting**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **General code of conduct**

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

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

Day to day be sensitive and aware of how you and your group are being perceived by those around you. Be alert to where you are, sensitive when taking photos, aware of how much noise we are making, careful of how you are dressed. Everyone wants to have the best time possible in Africa and there are plenty of chances to have a trip of a lifetime. Excessive noise, obscenities and inappropriate behaviour cannot

be tolerated - we need to show respect for the places we visit and the people we meet 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.

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.

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.

### **Keeping in touch**

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

Email – you will be able to access email in Kampala, Arusha, Zanzibar, Lusaka, Victoria Falls, Swakopmund and Cape Town. Please note internet speed is quite often very slow so be warned!

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

If you do need to have something sent to you while travelling, please contact the office as to the best

destination and address to use.

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

### Language

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

## The Great Migration

[Back to Index](#)

### The Great Migration

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



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 To 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)**

**21st March 2024**