



# Simba Sounds Safari

## MAKE TRACKS FOR AFRICA

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

### Departure dates for the Simba Sounds

Depart Nairobi	Finish Nairobi	Price	Local payment (\$US)
25 Aug 2025	22 Sep 2025	£2275	US\$800
20 Sep 2025	18 Oct 2025	£2275	US\$800
14 Oct 2025	11 Nov 2025	£2275	US\$800
04 Dec 2025	01 Jan 2026	£2275	US\$800
24 Jan 2026	21 Feb 2026	£2275	US\$800
23 Feb 2026	23 Mar 2026	£2275	US\$800
19 Apr 2026	17 May 2026	£2275	US\$800
30 May 2026	27 Jun 2026	£2275	US\$800
29 Jun 2026	27 Jul 2026	£2275	US\$800
24 Jul 2026	21 Aug 2026	£2275	US\$800
23 Aug 2026	20 Sep 2026	£2275	US\$800
20 Sep 2026	18 Oct 2026	£2275	US\$800
14 Oct 2026	11 Nov 2026	£2275	US\$800
04 Dec 2026	01 Jan 2027	£2275	US\$800
24 Jan 2027	21 Feb 2027	£2275	US\$800

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

**Highlights:** Sheldrick's Elephant Orphanage • Giraffe Park • Masai Mara • The Rift Valley • Elsamere • Lake Naivasha • Hells Gate National Park • Crater Lake Sanctuary • Hippo cruise • Lake Nakuru National Park • Whitewater rafting on the White Nile • Volunteer in a local school • Bungee jump • Quad biking • Horse riding • Kayaking • Lake Victoria • Chimpanzee trekking • Lake Mburo National Park including boat cruise • Lake Bunyoni • Genocide Memorial and Museum • Mountain gorilla trek • Golden monkey trek • Hike to Dian Fossey's grave • Orphanage visit • The Grumeti • Batwa (pygmy) village • Serengeti National Park • Ngorongoro Crater • Maasai boma visit.

**Safari structure:** The Simba Sounds Safari visits East Africa's world famous game parks including the Masai Mara, Bwindi National Park to view the endangered mountain gorilla and the Serengeti. We also visit traditional villages en route. It is a component of our main program of safaris. Along the way you will meet travellers who may be doing longer or shorter components of this program.

## Index

[Back to Index](#)

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

Safari departure dates and details	Page 1
Flights	Page 2
Insurance	Page 3
Visa requirements	Page 3
Pre and post safari information	Page 4
Health and immunisation	Page 7
A detailed guide itinerary	Page 9
Gorilla permits	Page 12
Money and budgeting	Page 13
Packing - what to bring, packing advice incl. electrical equipment	Page 19
Life on your big yellow truck (Including advice on safety and security, trading and donating, general code of conduct, keeping in touch)	Page 21
The migration	Page 25
Wildlife chart	Page 27
Further reading	Page 28

## Flights

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

The tour arrives into Nairobi usually by mid afternoon on the final day. Return flights should be arranged to depart no earlier than 6pm on the final day.

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

For this safari you should arrange Nairobi return flights.

There are several airlines that you can look at to accompany this safari including British Airways, KLM, Kenya Airways, Virgin and Emirates.

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

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

## Insurance

[Back to Index](#)

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, trekking Kilimanjaro, volunteer work 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 Simba Sounds Safari

[Back to Index](#)

Your passport needs to be valid for at least 6 months after your trip finishes. Ensure also that you have enough pages in your passport for each country you visit. As a guide then, for the Simba Sounds Safari you will need to have a minimum of 5 blank pages (sides).

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

**At present please note that all travellers must apply for an eTA (electronic travel authorization) for Kenya prior to arrival.** This is 30 USD. Note it is only valid for 90 days from the date of issue so please do not apply too early as it needs to be valid until you fly out of Nairobi at the end of your tour.

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

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

For Tanzania, most passport holders can also buy this at the border as we travel.

Visas on the ground can only be paid for in US dollars cash.

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

Passport	Kenya	Uganda	Rwanda	Tanzania	No of Visas	Total Value US\$
Australian	\$30	\$50	-	\$50	3	\$130
New Zealand	\$30	\$50	-	\$50	3	\$130
South African	\$30	\$50	-	-	2	\$80
Canadian	\$30	\$50	-	\$50	3	\$130
American	\$30	\$50	\$30	\$100	4	\$210
British	\$30	\$50	-	\$50	3	\$130
German	\$30	\$50	\$30	\$50	4	\$160
Dutch	\$30	\$50	\$30	\$50	4	\$160
Irish	\$30	-	\$30	\$100	3	\$160
French	\$30	\$50	\$30	\$50	4	\$160

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

Be aware that visa requirements can change without notice. Visa charges are totally at the discretion of immigration officials. The information above is given as a guide only. We do ask that you also check your personal current visa requirements with the relevant embassies well in advance before you travel. Ultimately you are responsible for ensuring your visa arrangements are adequate for your trip. For more information on visas check out <https://absoluteafrica.com/Visa> and [www.projectvisa.com](http://www.projectvisa.com)

## Pre and post safari information

[Back to Index](#)

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

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

### Accommodation options

#### THE HERON HOTEL

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

Prices for the Heron Hotel are

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*Alternatively Wildebeest Camp offers slightly cheaper accommodation.*

#### WILDEBEEST ECO CAMP

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

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

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

Prices for the Wildebeest Camp are:

Dorm	40 USD
Single Garden Tent	56 USD
Double Garden Tent	88 USD
Single Cottage Room	88 USD
Double Cottage Room	120 USD
Single En-suite Garden Tent	104 USD
Double En-suite Garden Tent	136 USD

All prices include breakfast.

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

US\$20 - 25 (2,500 KES) for 1 person  
US\$15 - 18 (1,500 KES) pp for 2 people

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

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

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

## Day trips in Nairobi

If you wish we can arrange a day tour:

### Nairobi National Park

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

Price: On request

## Security in Nairobi

Do be aware that Nairobi is known as 'Nairobberry'. Make sure you stay alert at all times and take sensible precautions. It's best to 'dress down'. Don't wear or carry anything valuable or new including cameras. Mobile phones should be inconspicuous. Do not leave anything of value lying around on display in your room at the hotel. Take great care in Mlimani Road and do not walk on the streets at night.

## Eating out in Nairobi prior to departure

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

## Departing Nairobi

On the departure date we will collect you from either from The Heron Hotel, Nairobi, at 7.30 am, or Wildebeest Eco Camp at 8.15 am, depending on your location.

We spend our first day visiting Sheldrick's Elephant Orphanage and The Giraffe Park. There is also time for final preparations for the trip, before we head out on the open road on the second day. We often organise a meal at one of Nairobi's famous restaurants, such as Carnivores or similar, which is a great chance to meet your fellow travellers.

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

Your crew are there to do all they can to help. Please feel free to discuss any matter with them. Do remember you are on a group trip and it is as valuable to listen to other people's ideas as it is to contribute your own. Your crew have been trained and do know your route. They will facilitate group discussions and will advise to the best of their abilities.

## Important pre-safari details

Upon booking this overland trip a form is sent to you on which you can advise us of all your booking requirements in Nairobi including transfers and accommodation. You can also update us on this form of any change in your details and confirm your insurance details, if you don't know these when booking.

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

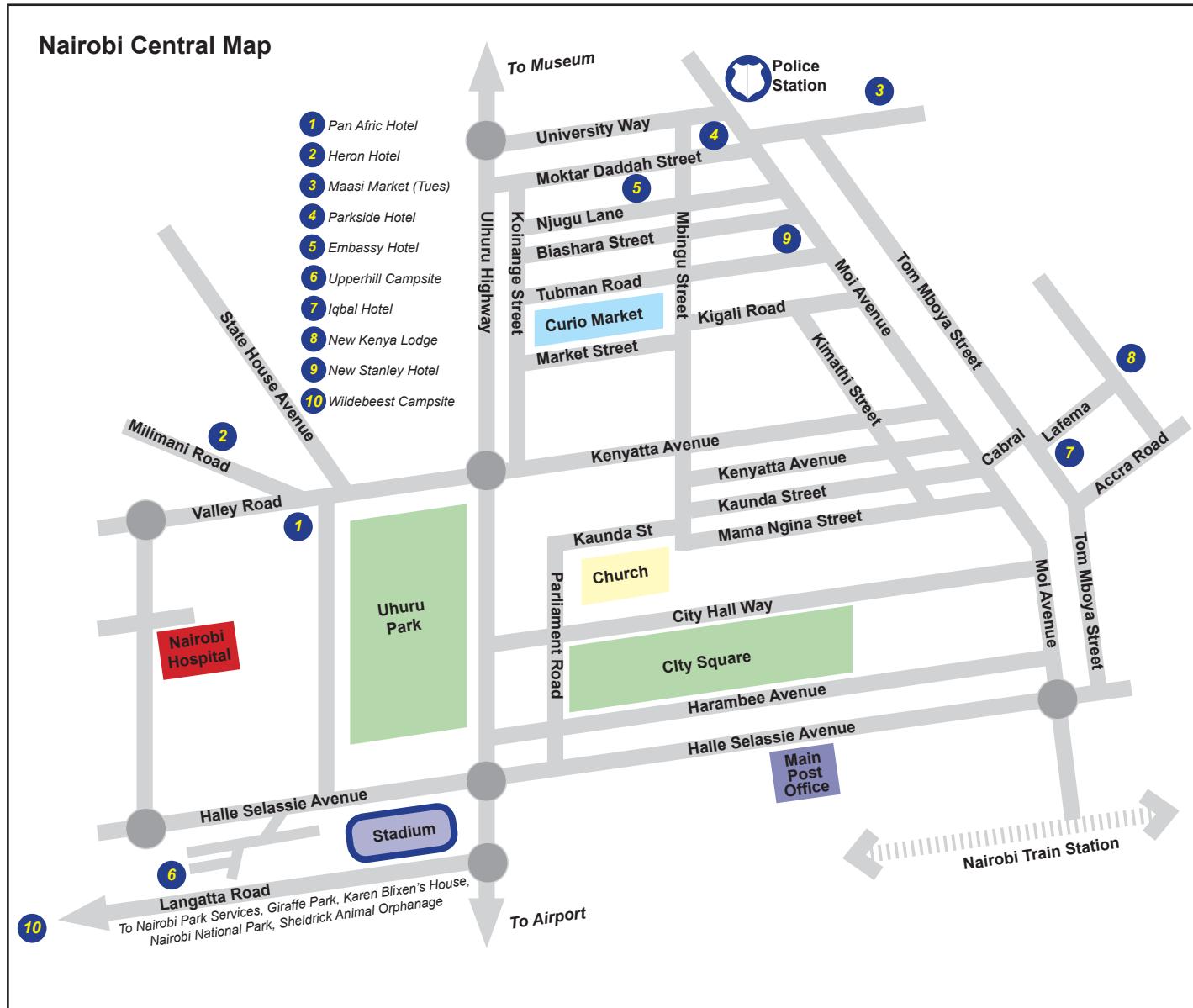
## Flight departure

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

## Arriving in Kenya – Jomo Kenyatta International Airport, Nairobi

At the airport, the signs are in English and Swahili. There is always a bank open for international arrivals.

You will find a bank to your right after you collect your backpack before you go through customs. You should change up enough money into Kenyan shillings for what you need until you meet the truck or can next get to a bank. Do remember you need to pay for any meals you will have before the trip starts, including breakfast for the morning of the departure, as well as your accommodation and transfers prior to departure.



*NB: For rough budgeting/banking purposes, in Kenya the exchange rate is currently 1US\$ =129 KES (July 2025)*

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

If you would like the Absolute Office to order a taxi for you ahead of time so that there is someone waiting for you at the airport when you arrive do let us know using the previously mentioned form.

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

Do be aware that anyone offering to assist you with your bags at the airport will expect a tip. You can say no politely. Expected tips for assistance with bags are around 100 KES. It is wise to have a small amount of change readily available.

## **The end of your safari**

The Simba Sounds Safari finishes in Nairobi, Kenya, the early shuttle usually arriving into Nairobi by early afternoon on the last day.

The shuttle drops off at the Heron Hotel or at Jomo Kenyatta Airport. If you need accommodation arranging in Nairobi, just let us know. This can be booked for you.

## **Other options to consider with your overland safari**

### **Climb Kilimanjaro**

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

*We can also tailor beach stays on the Kenyan Coast or on Zanzibar Island....*

### **Beach Stays on the Kenyan Coast**

Unwind on the white beaches of the Kenyan coast. Prices from U\$22 pppn for stays in simple beach tree huts. Please contact us for further details.

### **Beach Stays on the Zanzibar Island**

Rather than travel back to Nairobi on the last day of the trip, we can book flight onto Zanzibar so you can head to the beach after leaving the game parks.

From there we can also arrange for a stay in traditional Stone Town, and on the sunbleached beaches of Zanzibar. Let us know your requirements. For further details contact our office and feel free to visit [http://www.absoluteafrica.com/summary.lasso?trip\\_code=ZI01](http://www.absoluteafrica.com/summary.lasso?trip_code=ZI01)

## **Health and immunisation**

[Back to Index](#)

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

You will need to have the required immunisations and start a course of anti-malarials prior to departure for this trip. 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:

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

In Australia and New Zealand, Travellers Medical and Vaccination Centre also have a Health Travel Line. The Travel Health Line is 1902 261 560. There is a per minute charge on this line.

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

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

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

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

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

The choices usually suggested are:

Larium, taken x 1 a week

Doxycycline, taken x 1 a day

Malarone, taken x 1 a day

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

As well as your anti-malarials, you will need to bring a number of other medical items in a simple Personal Medical Kit. Medical kits can usually be bought at travel clinics.

Alternatively lists as to the types of items you are advised to carry can be found in the 'What do I need to bring on safari?' section on page 19.

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

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

- Cover exposed skin thoroughly in insect repellent, such as DEET, from dusk to dawn, and reapply it regularly. When applying with sunblock, put it on top of the sunblock.
- Ensure you carry enough DEET with you to Africa. It is not easy to get hold of mosquito repellent once

on the road.

- Always sleep under a mosquito net or in a secure tent with all zips zipped up.
- Cover up at the beginning and end of the day including wearing long-sleeves and long-legged lightweight clothing as well as socks.
- Wear impregnated wrist and ankle bands.
- 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 Victoria. 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 Simba Sounds itinerary**

[Back to Index](#)

### **Day 1: Nairobi, Kenya**

On our first morning we have the opportunity to visit the two famous animal conservation projects in Kenya's capital, Nairobi. At the Sheldrick's Elephant Orphanage there is an informative introduction to all the work the trust is involved with, helping protect the African elephant and other affected species. At the Giraffe Centre, you can hand feed the world's tallest mammal in the beautiful grounds of Giraffe Manor.

We have our departure meeting today, take time to get to know our fellow travellers and have our first introduction to the Absolute tents.

Distance: 0 kms

Est. Drive Time: 0 hours

Meals: X1 Dinner

Included wildlife activity: The Giraffe Park, Sheldrick's Elephant Orphanage

### **Day 2: Nairobi to Loita Hills**

An early breakfast today before the adventure begins on the big yellow truck. We head out on the dusty roads to a beautiful remote part of the Masai Mara.

We stop at Loita Hills, home to East Africa's ancient tribespeople, where the Maasai give us a warm welcome with traditional singing and dancing.

We spend this afternoon with a walk in the hills with the Maasai warriors, learning about their culture and the surrounding nature. We visit the local hot springs and a women's village. This evening the warriors show us how to light the campfire and we find out more about their fascinating culture.

Distance: 261 kms

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

Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Dinner

### **Days 3 - 4: Loita Hills to the Masai Mara**

Up early and before we say goodbye to our Maasai hosts, we have time for “warrior training” and to visit the local Maasai children at their school. We then set off on the road to the Masai Mara, Kenya’s most famous game reserve.

Here, we have our first game drive in small 4x4s with a local guide, on the renowned stage of the wildebeest migration. We are on the watch for all the wildlife for which Africa is famous from elephant to lion, cheetah, zebra, giraffe, hippo, crocodile, gazelle and warthog.

We also take our game drives the next day by Landcruiser in this impressive National Park. A morning balloon safari can also be arranged.

Distance, Day 3: 60 kms

Est. Drive Time, Day 3: 2 hours

Meals: X2 Breakfasts, X2 Dinners

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

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

*Optional excursion:* Balloon Safari

### **Days 5 - 6: Masai Mara to Lake Naivasha**

This morning we have our last game drive in the Mara. We then get back to the overland truck and head for our next camp at Lake Naivasha.

Lake Naivasha is famous for hippopotamus; by day the hippo wallow in the lake and at night they come out to graze on the lawns near our camp. We can take a ‘hippo cruise’ on the lake. A cycling safari can also be arranged in Hell’s Gate National Park. Here you can explore with a guide, see evidence of geological changes as well as a range of wildlife including gazelle, impala, eland and the fascinating and abundant bird and plant life of the region. The Maasai Cultural Centre in the park also allows us to discover more about the Maasai people and culture. Alternative options are to take a guided walk to the Crater Lake Game Sanctuary, or enjoy high tea at Elsamere, the home of Joy Adamson of ‘Born Free’ fame, where we can also enjoy the antics of the black and white colobus monkeys on the lawns of the Conservation Centre.

Distance, Day 5: 258 kms

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

Meals: X2 Breakfasts, X2 Dinners

Included wildlife activity: Morning game drive, Masai Mara

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

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

### **Days 7 - 8: Naivasha to Nakuru**

Today we head further up country to camp near Nakuru National Park where we can enjoy a swim in the swimming pool.

A day of game drives in Lake Nakuru National Park take us through acacia forests, candelabra euphorbia stands and grasslands. The park is also a sanctuary for black and white rhino, Rothschild’s giraffe as well as waterbuck, reedbucks, zebra, warthog and Grant’s and Thomson’s gazelle. These in turn attract the resident carnivores: lion and leopard.

The park’s alkaline lake supports hippo and migratory waterfowl and waders, and particularly the beautiful greater and lesser flamingos, which can give the lake a pink appearance.

Distance, Day 7: 70 kms

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

Meals: X2 Breakfasts, X2 Dinners

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

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

### **Days 9 - 10: Nakuru to Jinja, Uganda**

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

The following day we head to the border crossing and enter Uganda. We camp in Jinja by the White Nile, just downstream from the source of the Nile.

We have a briefing on all that Jinja has to offer us over the next two days, with its many activities, some more adventurous than others!

Distance over two days: 420 kms

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

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

Meals: X2 Breakfasts, X1 Dinner

### **Days 11 - 12: Jinja**

After several days on the road we enjoy a welcome break from travelling. Jinja is known as Uganda's adventure capital. Spend a day white water rafting or kayaking in the equatorial sunshine. Experience the thrill of the bungee jump! There are also options to explore this lush tropical region on quad bikes, mountain bikes or on horseback. Many also enjoy exploring on a village walk. This is a good chance as well to catch up on washing, and to relax and sample food available in small local restaurants or at the campsite restaurant.

Distance: 0 kms

Est. Drive Time: 0 hours

Meals: None

Optional excursions: Whitewater rafting, bungee jump, kayaking, boat trips and cruises, incl. fishing trips, sups, quad biking, horse riding, mountain biking.

### **Day 13: Jinja to Ziwa Rhino Sanctuary**

Today we return to the bush leaving Jinja to travel to the Ziwa Rhino Sanctuary, the only place in Uganda to see rhino.

In the afternoon we go for a rhino trek on foot with a trained ranger, and there is also the option to do an early morning boat trip in the gorgeous swamps of the park particularly to see the prehistoric-looking shoebill.

Distance: 225 kms

Est. Drive Time: 9 hours

Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Dinner

Included wildlife activity: Entry to Ziwa Rhino Sanctuary, Rhino trek

*Optional excursions:* Boat ride, bird or wildlife walk

### **Day 14: Ziwa Rhino Sanctuary to Kampala**

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

Distance: 170 kms

Est. Drive Time: 6 hours

Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Dinner

## **Days 15 - 16: Kampala to Lake Mburo National Park**

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

Distance, Day 15: 242 kms

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

Meals: X2 Breakfasts, X2 Dinners

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

Vehicle for game drives: 4x4 open safari vehicle

*Optional excursion:* Evening game drive

## **Day 17: Lake Mburo National Park to Kalinzu Forest**

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

Distance: 140 kms

Est. Drive Time: 4 hours

Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Dinner

*Optional excursion:* Chimpanzee trek in Kalinzu Forest.

## **Day 18: Kalinzu Forest to Kisoro**

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

Distance: 226 kms

Est. Drive Time: 9 hours incl. lunch

Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Dinner

## **Day 19: Kisoro**

At altitudes of up to 3,500 feet, gorilla trekking through dense vegetation on the volcanic slopes of the Virungas is one of the trip's high points. The gorillas are magic to visit. Herbivores, who munch the day away, when they are not playing or sleeping, they live in family groups under the charge of an older dominant male. Known as the silverback, this adult male can weigh up to 350 lbs. Despite their size, the gorillas are shy, gentle and sensitive creatures, in great danger of extinction. There are several other excursions on offer here as well apart from the trek. For another view of the forest head out to trek a troupe of golden monkeys in the lower reaches of the forest. The golden monkey is a sub species of the blue monkey and is named for its vibrant colouring. A Pygmy dance troupe may be invited to entertain with some traditional drumming.

Distance: 0 kms

Est. Drive Time: 0 hours

Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Dinner

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

## **Days 20 - 21: Kisoro to Musanze, Rwanda**

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

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

Distance, Day 20: 51 kms

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

Meals: X2 Breakfast, X2 Dinner

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

### **Day 22: Musanze to Kigali**

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

Distance: 115 kms

Est. Drive Time: 3 hours

Meals: X1 Breakfasts, X1 Dinners

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

### **Days 23 - 24: Kigali to Mwanza, Tanzania**

We now cross the 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 on our first night in Tanzania in Nyakanazi away from Western comforts. We eat locally and there is time on our journey to mingle in the village markets and kick a football with the local kids. Next day's adventure finds us on back roads heading for the south side of Lake Victoria to our camp in the city of Mwanza which we reach by ferry. Our camp is set by Lake Victoria.

Distance over two days: 535 kms

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

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

Meals: X2 Breakfasts, X2 Dinners

### **Days 25 - 26: Mwanza to Ngiri, central Serengeti**

Reaching Bunda we prepare for the next exciting part of the tour, our entry and drive across the world famous Serengeti National Park and Ngorongoro Crater, ecosystems boasting the Big Five.

There is time this afternoon to stretch our legs on a hill walk near camp offering wonderful views.

We pass the next morning through the Grumeti Reserve en route to Ikoma Gate. We enter The Serengeti in our overland truck by lunchtime, travelling slowly as we game drive across these famous grass plains.

The famous migration regularly passes this area year in, year out in search of fresh grazing anytime from late April through to August. And here as well the big cats - lion, leopard and cheetah pursue the vast migratory herds of wildebeest, gazelle and zebra.

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, Serengeti is famous for the annual migration when more than 200,000 zebra and 300,000 Thomson's gazelle join the wildebeest's trek. Even when the migration is quiet, the Serengeti is home to resident large herds of buffalo and elephant as well as giraffe, and thousands upon thousands of eland, topi, kongoni, impala and Grant's gazelle. Hippo pods can be found in the pools, and there is fabulous birdlife with favourites such as ostrich and secretary birds. The park is as well famous for its "big cats" – lion, leopard and cheetah.

Distance to Bunda, Day 25: 156 kms

Est. Drive Time, Day 25: 5 hours incl. shopping

Distance to Ikoma Gate, Serengeti, Day 26: 160 kms

Est. Drive Time, Day 26: 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 27: Central Serengeti to Ngorongoro Conservation Area**

Up early, we head out on morning game drives in the Serengeti National Park in the truck. An alternative game drive in 4x4 Land Cruisers can also be arranged. For the best vantage point of sun rise, a balloon safari can be arranged in advance to drift in silence over the immense Serengeti plains offering this panoramic landscape from an entirely different perspective.

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

Semi-nomadic Maasai tribespeople can be found as well throughout this region still living their traditional lifestyle around the Crater rim, shunning modern ways. They continue to dye their hair with ochre and live on a diet of milk and blood obtained from their cattle. They can be regularly seen herding their cattle dressed in their distinctive red check. Another visit to a Maasai boma is arranged time permitting. Our landscape changes as our drive takes us above Ngorongoro Crater, the world's largest extinct volcano. We have our evening meal. Our camp has sweeping views across the Crater, another camp in the wilds under African stars.

Distance: 161 kms

Est. Drive Time: 5 hours

Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Dinner

Included wildlife activity: Morning game drive, Serengeti.

Afternoon slow transit drive, Ngorongoro Conservation Area

Vehicle for game drive: Overland truck

*Optional excursions:* 4x4 morning game drive, Balloon safari, Maasai boma visit, Olduvai Gorge Museum depending on road conditions. Please note if you wish to visit Olduvai Museum you must let the office know prior to the tour departure

### **Day 28: Ngorongoro Crater to Arusha**

After an early breakfast, we transfer over to 4 X 4 landcruisers with special pop up game viewing roofs to descend 2,000 feet into the Crater, where 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 Arusha, usually with time to purchase traditional beads, carvings and special artwork at a market stall on the way. We enjoy a group barbecue together to celebrate all we have seen in the Tanzanian parks .

Distance: 195 kms

Est. Drive Time: 3 - 4 hours

Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Dinner

Included wildlife activity: Morning game drive, Ngorongoro Crater

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

### **Day 29: Arusha to Nairobi**

We say farewell to our fellow travellers and head back on the morning shuttle bus.

Distance: 278 kms

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

**Please note safari itineraries are given as a guide only. A safari is a journey and true journeys in Africa unfold and are of an adventurous nature. The unexpected can arise, so do allow for this.**

## Other Information

[Back to Index](#)

### Gorilla trekking

On your trip we travel to Kabale in south-west Uganda and from there to one of the gorilla parks for those who wish to trek the mountain gorillas. We book the gorilla permits for your safari ahead of time to visit either 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.

## Money and budgeting

[Back to Index](#)

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

*Before you go...*

1. Your price
2. Your airfare
3. Immunisation and anti-malarials
4. Gorilla permit
5. Insurance
6. Equipment
7. Visas and entry authorisations payable prior to departure

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

8. Spending money – This is very individual and often depends on how much you drink, shop and wish to upgrade. A suggested budget would be 460 - 570 USD.
9. Local payment – 800 USD
10. Optional excursions – A traveller who wishes to do most optionals on the trip will spend an average of between 200 - 430 USD
11. Visas on the ground: up to 130 USD depending on nationality
12. Pre and Post safari costs

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

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

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

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

#### USD cash

We are finding clients find it most convenient to take approximately 1,300 - 1,500 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 from 2013 onwards and in good condition. When arranging your USD cash a range of is probably the most convenient including a few 5 USD and 10 USD notes as well as 20s, 50s and 100s.

Please 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 or Euro cash**

You may also like to carry up to 150 GBP/EUR cash as well if your money is currently in sterling or euro. This can be useful to buy local currency when you can get to a bank or regular forex bureau. If you are not in sterling or euro consider carrying more USD cash.

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

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

Please note also that Scottish pound notes are not accepted.

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

Please note breakfast is not provided on the first day of the safari.

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

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

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

### **ATM access and Paying by Card**

Note that it will be possible to access ATMs en route if you have a debit (Maestro) card or credit card (Visa and master card)

Do be aware where ATM access is available you can usually only draw local currency which cannot be used for all your costs. Many of your costs such as the local payment, visas and some of the optionals can only be paid in USD cash. Please note as well that Visa is the preferred card to use for payments.

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

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

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

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

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

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

For your information the currencies you will meet are:

Kenya	Kenyan shillings
Uganda	Ugandan shillings
Rwanda	Rwandan francs
Tanzania	Tanzanian shillings

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

This trip is structured so that most of your costs are 'pay as you go' via the local payment, some optionals and your spending money. This allows you to control your budget and only pay for those things you wish to

do. Overland trips have been costed this way for many years and for a number of reasons: partly as prices for some optionals can vary a lot month to month; some optionals are quite seasonal, such as specific game parks and whitewater rafting; different clients like to do different options; banking in Africa is quite difficult. By doing it this way, you also know that your money is regularly going 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 Masai Mara
- The Serengeti
- Ngorongoro Crater
- Nakuru National Park
- Mburo National Park
- The Grumeti Game Reserve
- Lake Victoria
- Sheldricks elephant orphanage
- The Giraffe Park
- A game cruise
- Ziwa Rhino Sanctuary and Rhino Trek
- Lake Naivasha

### WE ALSO INCLUDE

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

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

- 26 Breakfasts & 25 dinners whilst travelling on the truck including local and a pre-prepared bbq.
- 25 nights camping and 3 nights dorm accommodation in Uganda and Tanzania.

### WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

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

## **Personal spending money**

This amount is individual and variations in budgets depend largely on how much you spend on souvenirs and drink, as well as on lunch and snacks. You may also need to spend on personal costs such as e-mail, toiletries etc. It is a regularly updated average that has been provided by the crew and recent clients. Some weeks you will spend more and other weeks less. The current recommendation to carry as personal spending money for this safari is 580 - 720 USD. Allow an extra 20 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 - drums from the Royal Drum Makers at Mpambira, Uganda, Tanzanian makonde carvings and stone chess boards, kargas and kikois, beads and jewellery, wooden giraffes and batiks to name just a few.

Regularly 'smallish' optional activities costing under 20 USD also arise. These also will be covered by this spending money. Also, some clients like to buy a T-shirt at the end of their safari as a souvenir, or with some optional activities a DVD of 'the big day out'.

**Tipping:** You may like to consider tips for good service, particularly at some of the main highlights such as after your gorilla trek or game drives in Ngorongoro Crater.

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, which is booked and paid for in advance in London if you wish to do this option. Do note these excursions are run by local operators on the ground. They are not run by Absolute Africa.

Please contact us if you would like further information about any of these activities or excursions. Many of the optionals are payable in Africa in USD (cash). A few may be payable in local currencies. (Prices guide only as at July 2025).

### **KENYA**

#### *Staying by Lake Naivasha*

• Hells Gate National Park half day cycle trip	55 USD
• Crater Lake Sanctuary walk	50 USD
• Elsamere for afternoon tea	12 USD
• Hippo boat cruise	35 USD

#### *Jinja and the White Nile*

Full Day Grade 5 or Grade 3 Rafting– min 3 people	\$140 USD
Flat Water Tubing (incl. access to 25m water slide) – min 4 people	\$25 USD
White Water Tubing – min 4 people	\$45 USD

Nile Lunch Cruise including food & cash bar	\$30 USD
Nile Sunset Cruise including snacks & drinks	\$45 USD

Combos	
Raft/Bungee	\$240 USD
Sunset Cruise/Bungee	\$145 USD

Kayak The Nile	
Tandem kayaking	\$160 USD
Introduction to white water half day, from (\$120 – 1 person)	\$95 USD
Introduction to white water full day, from (\$150 – 1 person)	\$125 USD

Kayak Cruises	\$20 USD/hour
Kayak Freedom Rentals (2 people)	
2 hr Bujagali Tour	\$40 USD
Source of the Nile Tour, from (\$100 – 1 person)	\$75 USD

Nile SUP	
SUP Freedom Rentals, from	\$15 USD/hour
2 hr Bujagali Tour	\$40 USD
Half day white water guided trip, from (\$120 – 1 person)	\$95 USD
Full day white water guided trip, from (\$150 USD – 1 person)	\$125 USD

#### *Quad Biking*

Kyabirwa Safari (1 hr)	\$55 USD
Explorer safari (2 hrs)	\$85 USD
River Nile Safari (3 hrs)	\$105 USD
Twilight Safari (3.5hrs including local meal)	\$95 USD
 Bungee Uganda	 \$115 USD
Mountain Biking (including bike & helmet)	
Freedom Rental, from	\$15 USD
Guided Tour of Bujagali Area (1-2 hours)	\$30 USD
Guided Tour to Bugembe Viewpoint (2-4 hrs)	\$45 USD
 Horseback safaris:	 
1 Hour	\$45 USD
1.5 Hours	\$55 USD
1.5 Hours Sunset	\$60 USD
 Ziwa Rhino Sanctuary	 
Shoebill Canoe Trek	\$25 USD
Birding Tour	\$25 USD
Nature Walk	\$20 USD
 Chimpanzee Trek at Kalinzu Forest	 \$130 USD
 At the Gorillas	 
Transport to the gorilla trek start point, from	\$40 USD
Suggested tip for your gorilla guide	\$10 - \$15 USD
Orphanage visit transport	\$10 USD
Golden Monkeys entrance	\$100 USD
Transport to golden monkeys (shared cost)	\$100 USD
Batwa village visit	\$35 USD
Sunset canoe trekking – Lake Mutande	\$25 USD
Coffee Tour	\$35 USD
 <b>RWANDA</b>	 
Genocide Memorial audio guide (entry is free)	\$25 USD
Dian Fossey's Grave	\$75 USD
Transport to Dian Fossey's Grave (max 6 people)	\$100 USD/vehicle
Banana Beer Making (price dependent on numbers)	\$18 - \$43 USD
Basket Weaving (price dependent on numbers)	\$19 - \$48 USD
 <b>TANZANIA</b>	 
Morning safari Serengeti in 4x4 vehicle (min 5 people) from,	\$170 USD

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

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

Lunch, drinks, souvenirs as well as the occasional evening meal away from the truck are also covered by your spending money.

Updates on the price for all optional excursions are usually available in the update information we send out about two months before departure. Do check on-line 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 white water rafting. 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.

The optionals listed are usually those most clients wish to do. 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 - e.g. safe places to take local walks that might be available throughout the route, swim, cycle, hire a canoe, kick a soccer ball around with the local kids, go fishing, visit the local markets or post office, church, club or coffee shop.

There is a range of availability of things to do from destination to destination on the itinerary. At some places such as Jinja there is a lot of choice and either/or optional choices. At other destinations which are quieter there are fewer choices if you do not opt for the listed optional excursion/s. This is worth noting particularly for optionals that last for a full day or over night as you may not wish to be on your own at a campsite for an extended period.

If you would like further details of any of the different optionals for the safari 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 just 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. 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 contact us.

### You need to bring:

- Travel documents including passport (with all relevant visas if you need to arrange any ahead of time) 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 2 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, imodium, treatment for tummy bugs, stings/bites and sunburn and eye drops. 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

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

- Smartphone/Music Player 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  
*If bringing film, clients usually get through between 5 - 6 rolls on this safari. High-speed film is usually necessary for photographing wildlife in early morning or late afternoon. It is cheapest to purchase all film prior to arrival in Africa.*
- 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, and enter and exit the truck as well as how to maintain all supplies. Seat belts are fitted on the truck. For your safety please use these. Please also follow all washing and cleaning procedures carefully to avoid infections being spread.

It is essential in order to keep to schedules that you listen at group meetings to know what is happening and when, on the following day. Please follow all instructions carefully in regard to border crossings. Most trucks will 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 today 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 south into Tanzania. Where this is not the case it is advisable to buy your own bottled water, which is readily available and most campsites now sell sealed bottled mineral water. When buying your water do check that the bottles are sealed.

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

On the road there is always a lot to see but 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. Some clients prefer to bring their own roll mat – typically a self-inflating mat - you may like to consider this seeing as it will be 'bed' for the duration!

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

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

There is also the occasional opportunity to upgrade to a dorm-style chalet or simple hut accommodation with a bed if you think you might need a break from camping. This usually costs about 20 USD a night.

Availability is very limited though, and you need to be considerate of everyone else on the truck. Do budget accordingly if you might wish to upgrade once or twice 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 some toilets can be long drop in style. Please do not come on your African adventure camping safari expecting pristine bathroom facilities...

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

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

### **Sickness**

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

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

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

Day to day meals are prepared from the truck using both the non-perishable supplies bought in bulk prior to the safari and fresh supplies we buy as we travel. Staying fit and healthy on safari is a priority as we do keep busy and we want you to enjoy all you do. Everyone takes turns on a roster basis cooking for the group, being 'assistants' to the cooks and with the clean-up. The safari leader assists with menus, recipes and providing loads of ideas as well as being directly involved with cooking as needed. She/he is available to provide support and encouragement at any time during meal preparation. Cooking together is lots of fun and all part of the group experience! The sort of meals provided are spaghetti and pasta dishes, stir fries, cottage pies, kebabs, curries, stews and casseroles, hamburgers or jacket potatoes, 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.

There are also 1 - 2 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 also enjoy a couple of traditional local meals on safari or a bbq buffet. We also can contribute to a special final meal together in Arusha.

### **Specialist diets**

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

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

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

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

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

### **Personal safety**

Do be very aware of protecting your cash and valuables at all times and do not walk around flaunting valuables e.g. cameras, jewellery and money. Remember even cheap jewellery can look expensive! Day to day, layer your

clothing to keep valuables inconspicuous and take clothes preferably with zip and velcro pockets.

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

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

Whilst in Nairobi before the start of your safari, all valuables should be kept on your body when not in a safe. Once you join the truck, valuables can be locked safely away in a safety deposit box, which is kept hidden within the vehicle.

In Kenya confidence tricksters are particularly common. Be wary of anyone with a hard luck story, asking for assistance, soliciting sponsorship (particularly educational) or anyone offering a deal to change money at favourable rates. In particular Nairobi is known as 'Nairobberry' so please make sure you stay alert at all times.

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

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

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

### **Photography**

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

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

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

Please be aware 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.

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

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

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

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

If you do experience a problem while you are on the tour such as feeling unwell, not getting along with a

fellow traveller or if there is something that you are unhappy with in regard to the running of the tour or anything else that is bothering you or stopping you from having an enjoyable trip, please do inform your tour leader directly of the problem as a priority. They will want to know. Once they know they can take the appropriate actions to resolve the issue as quickly as possible. All and any issues will be treated with the utmost confidentiality.

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

### **General code of conduct**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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 Absolute office and we will do all we can to assist.

E-mail – you will be able to access e-mail in Nairobi, Kampala and Arusha. 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 Absolute Office should be contacted for further advice.

## Language

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

## The 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 safari (depending on the season). Follow the link for our chart which will show you where you are most likely to see the migratory herds each month of the year: [www.absoluteafrica.com/The-Migration](http://www.absoluteafrica.com/The-Migration)

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

# What and where?

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

**ABSOLUTE**  
AFRICA



Distribution as at June 2010

Group Name	Average Gestation (months)	Average Life Span (years)	Status	Diet	Kenya	Uganda	Rwanda	Tanzania	Malawi	Zimbabwe	Botswana	Namibia	South Africa
Lion	3.7	15	VU	C	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
African Elephant	herd	22	70	VU	H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cape Buffalo	herd	11	17	LC	H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Leopard	solitary	3	20	NT	C	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Rhinoceros	Black	6	35	CR	H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	White	6	35	NT	H	Introduced	Reintroduced	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cheetah	coalition	3	11	VU	C	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Spotted Hyena	clan	4	25	LC	O	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
African Wild/Painted Dog	pack	2.5	11	EN	C	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Blue Wildebeest (Gnu)	herd	8.5	20	LC	H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Giraffe	herd/corps/tower	15	28	LC	H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Plains/Burchell's Zebra	herd/harem	12	28	LC	H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Oryx/Gemsbok	herd	8.5	20	LC	H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Statungata	herd/group	7.5	19	LC	H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Greater Kudu	herd	9	7.5	LC	H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Common Eland	herd	9.2	17.5	LC	H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Impala	herd	6.5	12	LC	H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Thomson's Gazelle	herd	6	10.5	NT	H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Gerenuk	group	7	20	NT	H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Dik-dik	monogamous pair	6	3.5	LC	H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Warthog	sounder	5.7	15	LC	H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mountain Gorilla	group/troop	8.5	45	EN	H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Chimpanzee	group/community	8	50	EN	O	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Baboon	troop/congress	6	25	LC	O	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Golden Monkey	group/troop	5	19	EN	O	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Zanzibar Red Colobus Monkey	group	6	20	EN	O	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Rock Hyrax/Dassie	colony	7	12	LC	H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Banded Mongoose	group	1.7	8	LC	C	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Common Genet	solitary	2.5	8	LC	O	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Meerkat	mob/gang	2.5	13	LC	O	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Hippopotamus	pod/herd	7.9	50	VU	H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Nile Crocodile	bask/float	3*	45	LC	C	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Common Bottlenose Dolphin	pod	12	20	LC	C	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Status: LC = Least Critical, NT = Near Threatened, VU = Vulnerable, EN = Endangered, CR = Critically Endangered **DIEF:** C = Carnivore, H = Herbivore, O = Omnivore

\* Incubation not gestation

# Reading List

[Back to Index](#)

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

The Africans	David Lamb
Out of Africa	Karen Blixen
Letters from Africa	Karen Blixen
Venture Into The Interior	Laurens Van der Post
Gorillas in the Mist	Dian Fossey
A Good Man in Africa	William Boyd
The Grass is Singing	Doris Lessing
African Laughter	Doris Lessing
The Tree Where Man Was Born	Peter Matthiessen
African Silences	Peter Matthiessen
Cry the Beloved Country	Alan Paton
The Weather in Africa	Martha Gellhorn
The Last King of Scotland	Giles Foden
Zanzibar	Giles Foden
Mukiwa: A White Boy in Africa	Peter Godwin
I Dreamed of Africa	Kuki Gallman
Songs to an African Sunset	Sekai Nzenza-Shand
The Scramble for Africa	Thomas Pakenham
Disgrace	J.M. Coetzee
The State of Africa	Martin Meredith
Blood River	Tim Butcher
The Zanzibar Chest	Aiden Hartlet
Sowing the Mustard	Yoweri Museveni
In the Footsteps of Mr Kurtz	Michela Wrong
River God and The Seven Scrolls, and other titles	Wilbur Smith
A Sunday at the Pool in Kigali	Gill Courtemanche
Africa on a Shoestring	Geoff Crowther
Healthy Travel Africa	Isabelle Young, Lonely Planet 2000

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

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

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

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

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

**26th July 2025**