



# Northern Trails Safari

## MAKE TRACKS FOR AFRICA

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

### Departure dates for the Northern Trails

Depart Cape Town	Finish Nairobi	Price	Local Payment
06 Jul 2025	17 Sep 2025	£4,045	US\$1,100
06 Aug 2025	17 Oct 2025	£4,045	US\$1,100
05 Sep 2025	16 Nov 2025	£4,045	US\$1,100
11 Oct 2025	22 Dec 2025	£4,045	US\$1,100
06 Dec 2025	16 Feb 2026	£4,045	US\$1,100
01 Jan 2026	14 Mar 2026	£4,045	US\$1,100
11 May 2026	22 Jul 2026	£4,045	US\$1,100
05 Jul 2026	15 Sep 2026	£4,045	US\$1,100
15 Aug 2026	26 Oct 2026	£4,045	US\$1,100
14 Sep 2026	25 Nov 2026	£4,045	US\$1,100
09 Oct 2026	20 Dec 2026	£4,045	US\$1,100
06 Dec 2026	16 Feb 2027	£4,045	US\$1,100
01 Jan 2027	14 Mar 2027	£4,045	US\$1,100

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

**Highlights:** Cape Town • Robben Island • Cape Point • Shark dive • Cape Agulhas • Ostrich Farm • Cango Caves • Tsitsikamma Forest • Bloukrans Bridge bungee • Blackwater tubing • Port Elizabeth • Addo Elephant

National Park • Orange River • Lesotho • The Drakensberg • Johannesburg • Apartheid Museum • Kruger National Park • Khama Rhino Sanctuary • Chobe National Park game drive • Chobe River game cruise • Victoria Falls • Sunset cruise • Whitewater rafting on the Zambezi • Flights over the Falls • Bungee jump • Gorge Swing • Painted Dog Conservation Centre • Hwange National Park • South Luangwa National Park • Lake Malawi • Horse riding • The Rift Valley • Zanzibar Island • Red colobus monkey trek • Dolphin boat cruise • Prison Island and the giant tortoise • Mnemba Atoll • Snorkelling and scuba diving • Spice Tour • Maasai boma visit • Ngorongoro Crater • Serengeti National Park • Grumeti Reserve • Genocide Memorial • Orphanage visit • Dian Fossey's Grave • Golden monkey trek • Mountain gorilla trek • Lake Mburo National Park • Chimpanzee trek • Ziwa Rhino Sanctuary • Volunteer in a village school • Kayaking • Whitewater Rafting on the White Nile • Nakuru National Park • Lake Naivasha • Hells Gate National Park • Crater Lake Sanctuary • Maasai village incl. bush walk • Masai Mara for two nights

**Safari structure:** This safari commences in Cape Town and gives you the opportunity to visit some of the big highlights of East and Southern Africa, travelling along the beautiful coast of South Africa, stopping at the breath taking Victoria Falls, relaxing by Lake Malawi and on the stunning beaches of Zanzibar Island. We also visit some of Africa's best national parks including South Luangwa, Hwange, Serengeti & Ngorongoro Crater and the Maasai Mara. It also includes the opportunity to trek the endangered mountain gorillas.

The safaris are made up of components and on this group trip you might also meet travellers with less time who will travel with you for shorter sections of the route. Please feel free to contact us for further details.

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## Flights

When arranging your flights we suggest that you arrive the day before your safari begins. We spend the first few days in Cape Town however there is a lot to do in and around the city so you might like to arrive earlier.

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

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

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

Several airlines fly into Cape Town and out of Nairobi including British Airways, Kenya Airways, KLM/Air

France, Virgin, Emirates and SAA.

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

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

## Insurance

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

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

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

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

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

## Visa requirements

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

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

**Please note for those nationalities that need to pay for a visa to Rwanda, the East Africa Tourist visa will offer the best value for time and money.** It is being charged at 100 USD. This can be purchased on arrival in Rwanda at the border and will give entry to Rwanda, Uganda and Kenya.

**If you do not need to pay for a visa to Rwanda, you should then apply for the East Africa Tourist visa to Uganda ahead of time and this can be done online.** This is 100 USD. This is the easiest option as it means you only need to apply online to one country ahead of time. The alternative is to buy a single entry Ugandan visa online ahead of time for 50 USD and then apply online ahead of time for the Kenyan ETA which is 30 USD and this will save you 20 USD.

Irish citizens do not require a visa for Uganda and so it is most cost effective to buy a single entry visa for Rwanda at the border for 30 USD and then apply online ahead of time for a Kenyan ETA (electronic travel authorisation) for 30 USD. For ease though, as above, you may prefer to purchase the East Africa Tourist visa on arrival in Rwanda.

Please check <https://www.absoluteafrica.com/Visa> for more information.

To follow is an estimation of current visa requirements and their cost:

Passport	South Africa	Zim.	Zambia	Malawi	Tanzania	Rw.	Ug.	Kenya	No of Visas	Total Cost \$US
Australian		\$30		-	\$50		\$100	-	3	\$180
New Zealand		\$30	-	-	\$50		\$100	-	3	\$180
South African		-	-	-			\$100	-	1	\$100
Canadian		\$75		-	\$50		\$100	-	3	\$225
American		\$30		-	\$100	\$100	-	-	3	\$230
British		\$55		-	\$50		\$100	-	3	\$205
German		\$30		-	\$50	\$100	-	-	3	\$180
Dutch		\$30		-	\$50	\$100	-	-	3	\$180
Irish		\$55	-	-	\$100	\$100	-	-	3	\$255
French		\$30		-	\$50		\$100	-	3	\$180

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

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

Be aware that visa requirements can change without notice. The information above is given as a guide only. We do ask that you also check your personal current visa requirements with the relevant embassies well in advance before you travel. For more information on visas, check out [www.projectvisa.com](http://www.projectvisa.com)

## Pre and post safari information

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The meeting point for the Northern Trails Safari is at Ashanti Lodge, Hof Street Gardens, Cape Town, at 5.00pm on the departure date. If you arrive early, we can reserve accommodation for you prior to departure at Ashanti Lodge.

### THE ASHANTI LODGE

Ashanti Lodge is a Victorian mansion with an Afro twist, set in park land in the heart of Cape Town, with unhindered views of Table Mountain within walking distance to shopping malls and the City Centre. They have double and single rooms and dorms. There is a swimming pool with a sundeck, laundry service, baggage storage, fax and email service, tv lounge, travellers bar, café, communal kitchen, BBQ area and travel centre.

Ashanti Lodge is located at 11 Hof Street, Gardens, Cape Town. Tel: +27 21 423 8721

Prices for Ashanti Lodge, including breakfast, are:-

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

Airport transfers

approx 19 USD (250 Rand)

Exchange rate at time of writing is approximately 1 USD = 18 ZAR (May 2025).

This is payable on arrival in ZAR, USD or by credit card (Visa and MasterCard). Cancellation penalties again apply for 'no show'. If you are delayed please ensure you contact us or Ashanti Lodge.

Airport transfers can be arranged to Ashanti and these are R250.

We can also assist with any excursion bookings in Cape Town such as wine tours. Do let us know in advance if you wish to head to Stellenbosch for a wine tour



## Departing Cape Town

We spend the first two to three days in Cape Town during which you can visit highlights in Cape Town and get to know the other people travelling with you. Cape Town is a beautiful city with many attractions and highlights worth a visit such as Cape Point, The Waterfront, Robben Island and Table Mountain.

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 also 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. 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 trip we provide you with a form on which you can advise us of your pre-safari hotel and transfer requirements. Please ensure this form is sent back to the office 10 weeks prior to departure.

You can also let us know ahead of time of any activities you might like to do on this form if you wish to

ensure availability. The crew are happy to assist with organising activities in Cape Town such as Table Mountain, Robben Island, Cape of Good Hope.

If you will not be able to make it to Ashanti by 5pm on the departure date please contact us as soon as possible.

In the event of any last minute delays or problems there are emergency contact numbers for the Absolute Office on your Booking Voucher. For out of hours service in an emergency including to rearrange taxi and accommodation requests last minute please use these and not the main Absolute phone number.

Do protect your valuables at all times whilst staying Cape Town.

Whilst staying at Ashanti 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 South Africa on safari. Please remember to carry this with your personal documents. Your booking voucher is issued upon receipt of your final payment.

### **Arriving in South Africa - Cape Town**

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

You should change up enough money into South African Rand (ZAR) for what you need until you meet the truck or can next get to a bank. Remember you need to cover any meals you have prior to the safari including breakfast for the morning of the departure as well as your taxi into Cape Town and any pre safari accommodation. Please note breakfast on Day One is not included in the price.

### **Travelling into Cape Town**

The airport is situated 22 km from the centre of Cape Town. The easiest way to get into town and to Ashanti Lodge is to use a taxi.

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. You will find a form enclosed for this purpose.

The cost if we book a cab in advance for you is 250 Rand pp for up to two passengers, payable to your driver in Rand. Any extra passenger is an extra R20.

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

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

### **At the end of your safari**

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

### **THE HERON HOTEL**

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

Prices for The Heron 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.

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

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

Alternatively Wildebeest Eco Camp offers slightly cheaper accommodation.

### **WILDEBEEST ECO CAMP**

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

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

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

Prices for the Wildebeest Camp are:

Dorm	40 USD
Single Garden Tent	70 USD
Double Garden Tent	110 USD
Single Cottage Room	110 USD
Double Cottage Room	150 USD
Single En-suite Garden Tent	130 USD
Double En-suite Garden Tent	170 USD

All prices are inclusive of breakfast.

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

**Please note that all prices quoted in USDs are an approximation. Prices can vary depending on the exchange rate on the day.**

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

#### **Climb Kilimanjaro**

Kilimanjaro is a short flight or shuttle journey from Nairobi. We offer a variety of Kilimanjaro Treks to trek to the 'roof of Africa', Kilimanjaro, along the most popular and the more obscure routes using our own experienced professional team led by Samson Lauwo. For further details please contact us.

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

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

#### **Day trip in Nairobi**

If you wish we can arrange a tour to take in some of the sights of Nairobi.

#### **Nairobi National Park**

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

Price: On request

## **Health and immunisation**

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

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

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

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

You may also like to check out the following websites:

[www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk](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)

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

### **Suggested Immunisation Requirements (This is only a guide!)**

The immunisations usually suggested for this safari are:

- Yellow fever – You must be able to show proof of vaccination i.e. carry your certificate of vaccination with you.
- Typhoid
- Polio
- Tetanus
- Hepatitis A (three months)
- Meningitis
- Diphtheria
- Tuberculosis

Other Suggested Immunisations – Hepatitis B, rabies.

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

The choices usually suggested are:

Larium, taken x 1 a week

Doxycycline, taken x 1 a day

Malarone, taken x 1 a day

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

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

## General information on avoiding malaria

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

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

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

## Other medical issues

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

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

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

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

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.

## Northern Trails itinerary

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### Days 1 - 3: Cape Town

We spend our first three days in the vibrant city of Cape Town. Here you can take the cable car up Table Mountain for spectacular views of Cape Town; visit Robben Island, where Nelson Mandela was a prisoner for 18 years; as well as take your time to visit the Waterfront including the Aquarium, one of the city's main attractions. A day trip to Cape Point and the penguin colony can be also be organised. Shark diving can be arranged further down the coast at Hermanus too.

Meals: X2 Breakfasts, X3 Dinners

*Optional excursions:* Robben Island, Boulders Beach Penguin Colony, Table Mountain and cable car, Two Oceans Aquarium, Cape Point, paragliding, kiteboarding, wine tour, shark dive.

### Day 4: Cape Town to Bonnievale

We leave Cape Town in the early morning and take in the scenic drive to Cape Agulhas, the southernmost

point of the African continent.

After a stop at the lighthouse we then travel on to Bonnievale to camp. South Africa is a New World wine region, but is no new comer to wine producing, with the first vines being planted in 1655. We enjoy a late afternoon wine tasting this afternoon.

Distance: 338 kms

Est. Drive Time: 7.5 hours incl. lunch stop and viewing time at lighthouse

Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Dinner

### **Day 5: Bonnievale to Oudtshoorn**

Oudtshoorn is the ostrich capital of the world. Handling tiny fluffy ostrich chicks is an absolute delight.

There is also a visit to the Cango Caves with their incredible geological caverns and grand limestone formations.

Distance: 262 kms

Est. Drive Time: 4 hours

Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Dinner

Included wildlife activity: Ostrich Farm Tour

### **Days 6 - 7: Oudtshoorn to Stormsriver**

This morning we head through the spectacular Montague Pass, passing through the plantations of hops, this area being home to Mitchells Brewery. Then on to Knysna, voted South Africa's best seaside town. In particular the Garden Route coastline between June and December is an important nursery area for southern right whales.

Arriving at Tsitsikamma Forest, a canopy tour can be arranged to spend time high amongst ancient yellowwood trees. We then travel to Stormsriver, a village near to Bloukrans Bridge, where the highest commercially operated bungee jump in the world, located 216 meters above the Bloukrans River. Blackwater tubing at Storms River is also a lot of fun, as well as the flying fox.

Distance, Day 6: 214 kms

Est. Drive Time, Day 6: 5 hours including lunch stop

Meals: X2 Breakfasts, X2 Dinners

*Optional Excursions:* Whale watching (season dependent), black water tubing (season dependent), Bloukrans Bungee, flying fox, Tsitsikamma Forest - tree top canopy walk

### **Days 8 - 9: Stormsriver to Addo Elephant Park**

Day 8 we travel on to Port Elizabeth, en route to The Homestead Lodge at Addo. We stop off at Port Elizabeth on the way where some clients leave, and others can join us.

Addo National Park is the perfect setting for some fabulous wildlife viewing, including night game drives. Addo also incorporates the largest coastal dune field in the southern hemisphere.

This park boasts the Big Seven, (elephant, rhino, lion, buffalo, leopard, southern right whale and great white shark) and also protects the world's largest Cape gannet breeding population on Bird Island. The original elephant section of this park was proclaimed in 1931, when only eleven elephants remained in the area. Today this finely tuned ecosystem is now sanctuary to over 450 elephants, Cape buffalo, black rhino, a variety of antelope species, as well as a unique flightless dung beetle that is almost exclusively found in Addo.

Distance, Day 8: 224 kms

Est. Drive Time, Day 8: 5 hours including stops

Meals: X2 Breakfasts, X2 Dinners

Included wildlife activity: Game drive in Addo National Park

Vehicle for game drive: Overland truck

*Optional excursions:* Addo National Park night drives, Addo National Park horse trails, Sundowner tours

## **Day 10: Addo to Hogsback**

Setting off early, we head to our camp in beautiful Hogsback which is set amongst forests, waterfalls and mountains. Following lunch here you can spend time enjoying the Auckland Nature reserve, the hike to the Mother and Child Waterfall, or explore the town for local arts and crafts, take a village tour, try horseriding, mountain biking or abseiling.

Distance: 239 kms

Est. Drive Time: 6 hours

Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Dinner

*Optional excursions:* Bushwalking, abseiling, horse riding, village tour

## **Days 11 - 12: Hogsback to Malealea, Lesotho**

Getting away very early we are on the road to Lesotho. We have lunch at Aliwal north, before crossing the border to a scenic land of tall mountains and narrow valleys.

Arriving at Malealea Lodge, nestled in the Makhomalong Valley and surrounded by the Maloti Mountains - also known as the blue mountains - you will be captivated by the quiet and stillness of this picturesque setting. Take time to enjoy the tranquility, as well as seizing the opportunity for some hiking, pony trekking and meeting the locals, their grazing animals and their beautiful homes. Visit the coffee shop and enjoy local cuisine in the restaurant. Local singers entertain us during our stay, and you may enjoy upgrading to one of the simple Basotho or Forest Huts whilst here.

Distance, Day 11: 398 kms

Est. Drive Time, Day 11: 13 hours depending on the border and incl. lunch stop

Meals: X2 Breakfasts, X2 Dinners

*Optional excursions:* Pony trek, village tour, hiking, mountain biking, farm (donga) visit, hiking

## **Days 13 - 14: Malealea to The Drakensberg, South Africa**

Next stop is "The Drak"; Drakensberg meaning "Dragon Mountains". We continue our mountain journey returning into South Africa today via the Maseru border.

Here in the northern Drakensberg you can enjoy hiking, rock climbing or abseiling. Our campsite faces directly onto the Amphitheatre, one of the most impressive cliff faces on the planet, and the Tugela Falls can be seen plunging over this on a clear day after rain. Take a full day or half day hike to Tugela, or a guided hike to find out about the San rock art.

There is a fantastic amount of rock art here and much wonderful wildlife so this is a fantastic place again to get out amongst it! Forest cable tours, quad biking and mountain biking can also be arranged.

Distance, Day 13: 367 kms

Est. Drive Time, Day 13: 10 hours incl. lunch and shopping stops

Meals: X2 Breakfasts, X2 Dinners

*Optional excursions:* Hiking – half day and day hiking, abseiling, rock climbing, cable tours, mountain biking and quad biking

## **Day 15: The Drakensberg to Johannesburg**

We arrive in to Johannesburg, the "city of gold" early afternoon to park up at the Backpackers Connection.

Most head out this afternoon to visit the Apartheid Museum, which chronicles the rise and fall of apartheid, the key events in the saga, as well as some human stories from this state sanctioned system of racial discrimination. The Museum opened in 2001.

Distance: 327 kms

Est. Drive Time: 6 hours incl. lunch

Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Dinner

*Optional excursion:* Apartheid Museum

## **Days 16 - 18: Johannesburg, South Africa, to Kruger National Park**

Leaving Backpacker's Connection in Johannesburg, we head northeast to Kruger National Park.

Kruger is one of the world's greatest wildlife-watching destinations. All of Africa's iconic safari species – elephant, lion, leopard, cheetah, rhino, buffalo, giraffe, hippo and zebra – share the bushveld with over 500 bird species, 100 reptiles, nearly 150 mammals, multiple archaeological sites, and a stunningly diversity of trees and flowers. Kruger is the country's flagship national park.

We also visit Blyde River Canyon, the largest green canyon on earth, nearly 30 kilometres long, is one of South Africa's scenic highlights. Along the way there are many various sights to see, including the Three Rondavels which are huge cylinders of rock with hut-like pointed 'roofs' rising out of the far wall of the canyon. You can enjoy a walk and the views at God's Window, which has amazing lookouts over the valley below.

Distance, Day 16: 570 kms

Est. Drive Time, Day 16: 11 hours incl. stops for lunch & shopping

Meals: X3 Breakfasts, X3 Dinners

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

Vehicle used for game drive: Overland truck

## **Days 19 – 20: Kruger National Park to Khama Rhino Sanctuary, Botswana**

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

We arrive at Khama Rhino Sanctuary on day 20.

The Khama Rhino Sanctuary (KRS) is a community based wildlife project, established in 1992 to assist in saving the vanishing rhinoceros, restore an area formerly teeming with wildlife to its previous natural state and provide economic benefits to the local Botswana community through tourism and the sustainable use of natural resources.

Covering approximately 8585 hectares of Kalahari Sandveld, the sanctuary provides prime habitat for white and black rhino as well as over 30 other animal species and more than 230 species of birds.

Here you can opt for a rhino trek and night drives are also available.

Distance over two days: 739 kms

Est. Drive Time, Day 19: +/- 10 hours (depending on the border). Incl. stops for lunch & shopping

Est. Drive Time, Day 20: 2 hours

Meals: X2 Breakfasts, X2 Dinners

Included wildlife activity: Entry to Khama Rhino Sanctuary

*Optional Excursions:* Rhino trek, night game drive

## **Days 21 - 22: Khama Rhino Sanctuary to Chobe National Park, Kasane**

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

Distance over two days: 700 kms

Est. Drive Time, Day 21: 7 - 8 hours Incl. lunch stop

Est. Drive Time, Day 22: 5 - 6 hours

Meals: X2 Breakfasts, X2 Dinners

## **Day 23: Chobe National Park, Kasane**

The gateway to Chobe is Kasane. A small town sandwiched between the Zimbabwe, Zambia and Namibian borders and the Chobe National Park.

Here we take an afternoon cruise on the Chobe River

You can get up close to large herds of elephants and other game that are abundant in the Chobe National Park. They tend to make their way to the river for a drink and onto the islands in the river to feast off the grass. Puku and lechwe antelopes are common on the Chobe floodplains. Herds of elephants cross the Chobe River to the islands and hippos and crocodiles like to bask in the sun next to the water.

Birding is also excellent along with the river with frequent sightings of African darters, fish eagles, kingfishers and other waders and water birds. The African Skimmer is often seen. This bird is an almost threatened species and a nice one to tick off your birding list.

Time is also set aside for the option of an early morning game drive to travel deep into Chobe to maximize your chances of getting the most from this beautiful game park. Predator sightings are good, with leopard, cheetah, wild dog, and large prides of lion that hunt elephant. From servals to side-striped jackals, the list is endless.

All that said, Chobe is most famous for its elephant and buffalo populations, both of which can herd in mammoth proportions.

Distance: 0 kms

Est. Drive Time: 0 hours

Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Dinner

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

*Optional excursion:* Morning game drive, Chobe National Park

#### **Day 24: Kasane to Hwange National Park, Zimbabwe**

Hwange National Park is the largest game reserve in Zimbabwe and is known for its herds of buffalo and elephant and a huge diversity of over 100 different mammal species. Black-backed jackal, painted dog, bat-eared fox, baboon, porcupine, aardwolf, spotted hyena, caracal, leopard, African wildcat, lion, southern giraffe, hippo, warthog and Burchell's zebra are all found in Hwange to name just a few! The large numbers of plains game and antelope in the park provide a rich source of food for the predators. A number of white rhino have also recently been reintroduced to Hwange.

We head out on an afternoon game drive with an expert professional guide. There is also the option of an extra game drives, including evening game drives if you wish to see a little more.

We also visit the Painted Dog Conservation Centre based at the park. Fewer than 7,000 painted dogs are left across the entire continent. They may not be as famous as their trunked, horned, or maned neighbours, but these painted dogs —also known as African wild or hunting dogs—are beautiful, unique, and fascinating social animals. Painted dogs are native to Africa, and aren't found in the wild anywhere else on the planet.

Distance: 260 kms

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

Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Dinner

Included wildlife activity: Game drives in Hwange National Park  
Vehicle for game drive: Open 4x4 safari vehicle

*Optional excursion:* Extra game drive, Hwange National Park.

#### **Days 25 - 27: Hwange National Park to Victoria Falls**

Victoria Falls is one of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World. We stay at a campsite in Victoria Falls town within walking distance of "Mosi- oa-Tunya", which translates to "The Smoke That Thunders". It was given the name by the Kololo tribe that lived in the area in the 1800s.

This is the unrivalled Adventure Capital of Africa! There is something to do for everyone. For the adrenaline junkies there is the wildest one day white water rafting trip in the world, the 111 meter high bungee jump, river surfing, kayaking, heart stopping gorge swings, zip wires and many more.

You can also take it easier and explore this vibrant town, shops, local markets, craft markets and the many

places to eat. Maybe take afternoon tea at the Vic Falls Hotel with the company of the roaming warthogs.

Distance, Day 25: 174 kms

Est. Drive Time, Day 25: 5.5 hours incl. a stop for lunch

Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Dinner

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

### **Day 28: Victoria Falls to Lusaka**

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

Distance: 625 kms

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

Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Dinner

### **Days 29 - 32: Lusaka to South Luangwa National Park**

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

Much of the game is found near the river, with herds of elephant and buffalo descending the banks to drink. Large crocodiles laze on sandbanks and at dusk hundreds of hippo leave their pools and lumber up the banks to graze. Impala and puku are common and giraffe can be seen in the forests. Wildebeest, zebra, waterbuck and bushbuck, are also found. Predators abound with lion and spotted hyena.

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

Travelling to such a remote destination this is also a wonderful chance to experience rural Zambia. A game of football with the local kids is always fun. There can be elephants through the campsite at night here as well.

Distance over two days: 560 kms

Est. Drive Time, Day 29: +/- 6 hours

Est. Drive Time, Day 30: +/- 6 hours Incl. a stop for lunch and shopping

Meals: X4 Breakfasts, X4 Dinners

Included wildlife activity: Game drive, South Luangwa National Park

Vehicle for game drive: Open 4x4 safari vehicle

*Optional excursion:* Evening game drive, South Luangwa National Park

### **Days 33 - 34: South Luangwa National Park to Kande, Malawi**

Leaving Luangwa behind we travel to Malawi, heading for Kande beach to enjoy some down time by beautiful Lake Malawi. The long strip of soft white sand is perfect for sunbathing and volleyball, and the campsite has a lively bar. Trips on the lake can be arranged for fishing, snorkeling and diving.

Village visits can be arranged to nearby Tonga village too.

Distance, Day 33: 600 kms

Est. Drive Time, Day 33: +/- 11 hours depending on the border and incl. stops for shopping and lunch

Meals: X2 Breakfasts, X2 Dinners

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

### **Day 35: Kande to Chitimba**

We have one more beach stop at Chitimba. Chitimba, on the northern shore of Lake Malawi, is set on a beautiful golden sandy beach among banana palms and papaya trees with views of the Livingstonia and Nyika mountains. Here we can walk to the local village too, whose income and livelihood is centered

around the lake, like so many other villages in the area. Time for more swimming, snorkeling and even a game of beach volleyball.

You can also browse the markets, Malawi being well known for its wooden crafts, from the massive Malawi chairs and tall wooden giraffes to intricately carved chess boards and globes.

Distance: 235 kms

Est. Drive Time: +/- 5 hours

Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Dinner

### **Day 36: Chitimba to Iringa, Tanzania**

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

Our journey takes us through the mountainous terrain of the southern end of the 40 million-year-old Great Rift Valley, a geological phenomena that stretches over 4,000 miles from the Middle East to Mozambique. We are at altitude tonight at a farmhouse camp. A hot chocolate with a brownie are a popular treat to keep us warm this evening.

Distance: 498 kms

Est. Drive Time: 11 hours (depending on the border & incl. lunch stop)

Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Dinner

### **Day 37: Iringa to Morogoro**

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

Distance: 188 kms

Est. Drive Time: 4 - 5 hours

Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Dinner

### **Day 38: Morogoro to Dar es Salaam**

Dar es Salaam, the largest city in Tanzania, is known as the 'city of peace'. It is also the gateway over to Zanzibar Island. We camp tonight on the white sandy shores of the Indian Ocean and prepare for our optional trip to Zanzibar Island.

Distance: 321 kms

Est. Drive Time: +/- 10 hours incl. stop for lunch

Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Dinner

### **Days 39 – 42: Optional stay on Zanzibar Island**

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

On arrival we make our way through the winding alleys and can check out the exquisitely carved doors. We enjoy lunch at a local café and spend the first night in the traditional capital, exploring the night food markets and enjoying views of dhows sailing into harbor.

The following day, we head up to the beach. Pristine white sand and turquoise seas offer a postcard perfect view from the bar at our beach bungalows. Massages, manicures, pedicures, henna tattoos and more are available on the beach, while the dive centre next to the bar has a wide variety of boat trips and dive trips and courses, both scuba and snorkeling including to the coral waters of Mnemba Atoll.

Trips too can be arranged to Prison Island. There is a small isolated group of the rare giant Aldabra tortoise here too which can be viewed. This group are separate from the main population of giant tortoise which are found on Aldabra Atoll in the Seychelles.

Otherwise take a guided walk through the mangroves on the walkways in Jozani Forest, which is home to the rare red colobus monkey. A spice tour is arranged during our stay too to provide some background history to this fascinating island.

Distance: 0 kms

Est. Drive Time: 0 hours

Meals, Day 39: X1 Breakfast

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

#### **Days 43 - 44: Zanzibar Island to Arusha**

We catch the ferry back to Dar, before staying the night in the historic seaside town of Bagamoyo north of Dar es Salaam. Bagamoyo was founded at the end of the 18th century. Half a century later it was one of the most important settlements along the East African coast trading in slaves, ivory, copra and salt.

Dawn sees us on the road to travel north, and then inland. Our drive takes us through lush surrounds and passes the stunning Usambara mountain range as we make our way towards the bustling town of Arusha.

On a lucky day snow-clad Kilimanjaro might come into view towards the end of the day. At 5,895 metres it is Africa's highest mountain.

Distance over two days: 665 kms

Est. Drive Time, Day 43: 2 hours

Est. Drive Time, Day 44: 11 - 12 hours incl. lunch stop

Meals: X2 Breakfasts, X2 Dinners

#### **Day 45: Arusha to Simba Camp, Ngorongoro Crater**

This morning we travel in the overland truck through Maasai towns and villages to reach the gate of the Ngorongoro Crater. Here we transfer into open top 4x4 vehicles for our Tanzanian safari.

The Ngorongoro Crater is the world's largest intact volcanic caldera. Forming a spectacular bowl of about 265 square kilometres, with sides up to 600 metres deep, it is home to approximately 30,000 animals at any one time. The Crater rim is over 2,200 metres high and experiences its own climate.

We stop for photos at the Lookout on the edge of the Crater for a wide panoramic view across the rim. From this high vantage point it is possible to make out the tiny shapes of animals making their way around the crater floor far below. Back in the 4x4's we descend to the Crater floor.

The Ngorongoro Crater is home to the world's highest density of lions. Buffalo and wildebeest are the most common animals. Look out for hyena, cheetah, zebra, jackal and warthog and the more rare sightings of hippo and black rhino.

We make our camp at altitude tonight, up on the Crater rim, so bundle up, as temperatures drop!

Distance: 195 kms

Est. Drive Time: 3 - 4 hours incl. photo stops

Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Dinner

Included wildlife activity: Afternoon game drive, Ngorongoro Crater

Vehicle for game drive: 4x4 land cruiser with pop up roof

#### **Day 46: Simba Camp to Ngiri Camp, Central Serengeti**

Our journey this morning takes us towards the open plains of the vast Serengeti on a slow transit through Ngorongoro Conservation Area.

Wildlife is well visible from the large windows of the truck on our approach to the game park and Maasai villages are dotted around the countryside. The traditional farmers are easily spotted in their bright checked blanket attire, and can be seen walking their herds of goats and cows, their clanging bells providing a rustic soundtrack.

We enter the Serengeti in the overland truck at Naabi Gate.

It is home to the greatest wildlife spectacle on earth - the great migration. Over a million wildebeest and about 200,000 zebras flow south from the northern hills to the southern plains for the short rains every October and November, and then swirl west and north in April, May and June after the long rains. So strong

is the ancient instinct to move that no drought, gorge or crocodile infested river can hold them back.

The resident population of lion, cheetah, hyena, elephant, giraffe, and birds is also impressive.

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

Distance: 161 kms

Est. Drive Time: 5 hours

Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Dinner

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

Vehicle for game drives: Overland truck

*Optional excursion:* Maasai village visit

#### **Day 47: Ngiri Camp to Bunda**

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

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

Distance: 160 kms

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

Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Dinner

Included wildlife activity: Morning game drives, Serengeti National Park

Vehicle for game drives: Overland truck

*Optional excursions:* Ballooning in the Serengeti, Hill walk

#### **Days 48 - 49: Bunda to Mwanza, Lake Victoria**

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

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

Distance, Day 48: 156 kms

Est. Drive Time, Day 48: 3 - 4 hours

Meals: X2 Breakfasts, X2 Dinners

#### **Day 50: Mwanza to Nyakanazi**

Traveling further into rural Tanzania, we head to Nyakanazi where we stay in a very simple local guesthouse. The local children often enjoy providing us with an informal tour around this small African town.

Distance: 275 kms

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

Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Dinner

#### **Days 51- 52: Nyakanazi to Musane, Rwanda**

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

We spend time here at The Genocide Memorial. The Memorial has been and continues to be a place of

remembrance and learning, to honor victims of genocide against the Tutsi and ensure it never happens again. The remains of over 250,000 people are interred there. There is a visitor centre for students and those wishing to understand the events leading up to the events of 1994. The rest of the time here is free to explore Kigali city and perhaps visit some other memorial sites.

The next day, we make our way through mountainous terrain dotted with tea plantations. This evening we spend the night in Musanze, a small town near the Uganda border.

Distance, Day 51: 260 kms

Distance, day 52: 115 kms

Est. Drive Time, Day 51: +/- 10.5 hours (depending on the border) incl. lunch stop

Est. Drive Time, day 52: 3 hours

Meals: X2 Breakfasts, X2 Dinners

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

### **Days 53 - 54: Musanze to Kisoro, Uganda**

Here at our campsite, you can try your hand at banana beer making and basket weaving. There is also the chance in the afternoon to do a cycling or walking tour as well as time to visit Musanze town and the Dian Fossey museum.

On day four there is the option to head off on the steep trek to visit Dian Fossey's grave, the American primatologist and conservationist who undertook an intensive study of the species and spent her life working for their survival. Her murder remains shrouded in mystery.

We move on to Kisoro, Uganda, late in the day to stay at a simple local hotel where we spend the next two nights, our base while we trek the endangered mountain gorilla. Arrangements are made for those who trekked to Dian Fossey's grave to catch up if required.

Distance, Day 54: 51 kms

Est. Drive Time, Day 54: 3 hours (depending on the border)

Meals: X2 Breakfasts, X2 Dinners

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

Notes: If you wish to trek the gorillas in Rwanda please let us know at the earliest prior to booking. For those wishing to visit Dian Fossey's grave please let us know with good notice before the tour. For this excursion you will transfer late on day 54 after the Fossey trek to catch the group up in Kisoro ready for your gorilla trek on day 55.

### **Days 55: 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.

## **Day 56: Kisoro to Kalinzu**

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: 226 kms

Est. Drive Time: 9 hours including lunch stop

Meals: X1 Breakfasts, X1 Dinner

*Optional excursion:* Chimpanzee trek in Kalinzu Forest.

## **Days 57 - 58: Kalinzu Forest to Lake Mburo National Park**

Heading on our journey, 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 57: 140 kms

Est. Drive Time, Day 57: 4 hours

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

## **Days 59 - 60: Lake Mburo National Park to Ziwa Rhino Sanctuary**

We continue through the lush Ugandan countryside heading towards the capital, Kampala. On the way we stop at a local drum and craft market, and at the Equator there is time for a photo shoot. Reaching the capital we get to banks, e-mail and can do some shopping.

The next day we travel to the Ziwa Rhino sanctuary, the only place in Uganda to see rhinos.

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

Distance over two days: 412 kms

Est. Drive Time, day 59: 6.5 hours incl. stops for lunch and photos at The Equator

Est. Drive Time, day 60: 6 hours

Meals: X2 Breakfasts, X2 Dinners

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

*Optional excursions:* Boat ride

## **Days 61 - 63: Ziwa to Jinja**

We arrive at Jinja! The adventure capital of East Africa is at the source of the White Nile, and we camp on the banks of the river. Here we can take advantage of the wide range of activities on offer: white water rafting, quad biking, horse riding, bungee jumping, helping out in a local school plus a variety of boat and kayak trips on the Nile.

Distance, Day 61: 225 kms

Est. Drive Time, Day 61: 9 hours incl lunch stop

Meals: X1 Breakfast

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

## **Day 64: Jinja to Eldoret, Kenya**

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

Distance: 268 kms

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

Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Dinner

## **Days 65 - 66: Eldoret to Nakuru**

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

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

Distance, Day 65: 169 kms

Est. Drive Time, Day 65: 5 hours incl. stops for lunch and shopping

Meals: X2 Breakfasts, X2 Dinners

Included wildlife activity: Full day of game drives in Nakuru National Park.

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

## **Days 67 - 68 Nakuru to Naivasha**

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

Distance, Day 67: 70 kms

Est. Drive Time, Day 67: 3 hours incl. stop for shopping

Meals: X2 Breakfasts, X2 Dinners

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

## **Day 69: Naivasha to Loita Hills**

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

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

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

Distance: 154 kms

Est. Drive Time: 5 hours incl. stop for shopping

Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Dinner

## **Days 70 - 71: Loita Hills to Masai Mara**

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

Then we head on to our last game park on the tour, the Masai Mara, where we have two days of game drives. The Mara is one of the natural wonders of the world and is perhaps best known for being part of the setting for the famous wildebeest migration, a mass movement of over 2 million wildebeest, zebra and

Thomson's gazelle. The migration moves between the plains of the Serengeti in Tanzania and the Masai Mara in Kenya. Apart from the ever-watchful crocodiles found in and by the rivers, the other ever-vigilant predators, particularly lion, cheetah and hyena, closely follow the herds on their seasonal migrations as well to add to the drama. The Mara is particularly famous for its lion population, as well as cheetah and leopard.

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

Distance, Day 70: 60 km

Est. Drive Time, Day 70: 2 hours

Meals: X2 Breakfasts, X2 Dinners

Included wildlife activity: X1 morning and X2 afternoon game drives

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

*Optional excursion:* Balloon safari

### **Days 72 - 73: Masai Mara to Nairobi**

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

The last day we visit the giraffe centre and elephant orphanage in the morning and the afternoon is free to explore the city.

That evening we have a final group dinner to say farewell.

Distance, Day 72: 300 kms

Est. Drive Time, Day 72: Short morning game drive, then 6.5 hours to Nairobi incl. lunch stop and photo stops

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

Included wildlife activity: Morning game drive, Masai Mara, The Giraffe Centre, Sheldrick's Elephant Orphanage

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

*Optional excursions:* Meal out at a restaurant

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

## **Other Information**

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### **Gorilla trekking**

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

### **A few things to note about the gorilla trek**

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

we need to buy permits for your safari well in advance.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## **Zanzibar Island**

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

Accommodation and other arrangements on Zanzibar Island can book out. We have found it best, over

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

## Money and budgeting

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

*Before you go...*

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

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

9. Spending money - This is very individual and often depends on how much you drink, shop and wish to upgrade. A suggested budget would be 1,420 - 1,680 USD
10. Local payment 1,100 USD
11. Optional excursions - A traveller who wishes to do most optionals on the trip will spend an average of between 400 - 1,150 USD
12. Visas on the ground 80 - 130 USD depending on nationality
13. Pre and Post safari costs

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

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

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

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

#### USD cash

We are finding that clients find it most convenient to take between approximately 1,700 - 2,000 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 USD notes need to be dated post 2010 and be in good condition. When arranging your USD cash, a range of denominations is probably the most convenient including 5 USD and 10 USD notes as well as 20s, 50s and 100s.

#### Pounds Sterling and Euro cash

You may also like to carry up to 250 GBP or EUR cash as well if your money is currently in sterling or euro.

This can be useful to buy local currency when you can get to a bank or regular forex bureau. If you are not in sterling or euro consider carrying more USD cash.

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

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

When you arrive in Cape Town, you may wish to change up enough money into Rand to cover all your personal needs such as accommodation, transfers and meals including breakfast for the first day before you meet the truck. Or you may prefer to use an ATM to withdraw Rand as you go. You can also pay by card for many items in South Africa.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

For your information the currencies you will meet are:

South Africa – South African Rand

Botswana – Botswana Pula

Zimbabwe – US Dollars

Zambia - Zambian Kwacha

Malawi- Malawi Kwacha

Tanzania -Tanzanian Shillings

Rwanda - Rwandan Francs

Uganda - Ugandan Shillings

Kenya – Kenyan Shillings

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

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

remember also to carry what you need for before and after the safari on top of the above budget.

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

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

- The Serengeti
- Masai Mara, 2 nights
- Lake Mburo National Park
- Ngorongoro Crater
- Chobe with a game cruise
- Hwange National Park
- South Luangwa National Park
- Nakuru National Park
- Addo Elephant National Park
- Kruger National Park
- Winery visit
- Cape Agulhas
- The Cango Caves
- Ostrich Farm
- Khama Rhino Sanctuary
- The Grumeti Game Reserve
- Mikumi National Park
- Bujagali
- Painted Dog Conservancy
- Lake Naivasha
- Lake Victoria
- Lake Malawi

### **WE ALSO INCLUDE**

- A fully equipped and diesel expedition truck/vehicle including all camping and cooking gear, a fridge, gas cooker, tents, sleeping mats etc.
- Services of a driver and safari leader.
- The ongoing advice and back up from The Absolute Team.
- All road tolls and taxes are paid
- Breakfast (x63) & dinner (x63) whilst travelling on the truck including some pre-prepared bbqs and local meals.
- 57 nights camping whilst with the truck plus 12 nights in dorm accommodation in a lodge or similar.

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

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

### **Personal Spending Money**

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

The spending money is also calculated to cover those times when you don't eat and sleep on the truck whilst on Zanzibar Island and when the truck is parked up for a few days and everyone is busy doing activities in Victoria Falls and Jinja. You may also need to spend on personal costs such as email, toiletries etc. It is a regularly updated weekly average that has been provided by the crew and recent clients. Some weeks you will spend more and other weeks less. The current recommendation to carry as personal

spending money for this safari is 1,420 - 1,680 USD. Allow an extra 50 USD per week approximately if you think you might want to occasionally upgrade your accommodation to stay in chalets, which are available at some campsites.

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Optional activities

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

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

## SOUTH AFRICA

### In and around Cape Town

• Topless Bus Cape Town City Tour	R299
• Robben Island	R600
Ferry leaves hourly between 9 and 3. Please speak to your leader about booking ahead of time.	
• Cable Car to Table Mountain (return), from	R390
• Abseil Table Mountain	R940
• Paragliding	R1700
• Aquarium	R250
• Township tour	R770
• Cape Malay Cooking Experience - Tuesdays and Saturdays	R1460
• Cape Point and Peninsular Tour	R1800
• Skydiving	R3450
• Whale watching tour	R1950
• Wine lands tour	R1980
• White Shark Cage Diving - (inc food, transport and drinks)	R3250

Please be aware that shark diving is very weather dependent so do get your booking in as early and quickly with time allowed if possible the next day in case you can't go on your original booked date.

### Storms River

• Bungee - Bloukrans Bridge (not including transport)	1350 Rand
• Waterfall zip line tours – 1.5 hour tour, lunch excl.	400 Rand
• Canopy tour – 3 hour + lunch	660 Rand
• Blackwater tubing – Half day	650 Rand
Full day	1100 Rand

- Addo Elephant Park night drives 414 Rand

### **Hogs Back**

- Abseiling 350 Rand
- Bicycle rent R70/hour

### **Lesotho**

- Full day Pony Trek R380 - 620 (dep. on nos.)
- Waterfall & Bushmen Painting Pony trek R315 - 490 (dep. on nos.)
- Village pony trek R200 - 350 (dep. on nos.)
- Hiking to village/paintings/gorge R45 - 75
- Mountain biking half day (incl. guide) R300
- Mountain biking full day (incl. guide) R450

### **Drakensberg**

- Tugela Falls/Amphitheatre day hike R795 - 950 (dep. on nos.)
- Shuttle to Royal Natal bottom park R350

### **Johannesburg**

- Soweto tour 660 Rand
- City tour 660 Rand
- Lion Park 990 Rand
- Apartheid Museum (closed Mondays) 95 Rand

### **BOTSWANA**

Khama reserve

- Rhino trek 462 Pula
- Night game drive ( minimum 4 people ) 240 Pula
- Chobe game drive 580 Pula

### **ZIMBABWE including Victoria Falls**

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

### Victoria Falls by the Zambezi

- Victoria Falls Entrance \$50 USD

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

### White water rafting packages

- Whitewater rafting full day low or high water (incl. park fees) \$149 USD
- Rafting DVD \$30 USD

### Gorge activities

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

### Bungee Jumping

- Bungee Jump (111 metres - 3rd highest commercial bungee in the world) \$168 USD
- Bridge swing \$116 USD
- Tandem bridge swing \$166 USD

• Bridge slide	\$50	USD
• Tandem bridge slide	\$72	USD
• Village tour (includes return transfers from Victoria Falls, approx 3 hrs)	\$60	USD
• Elephant encounter	\$149	USD

#### Helicopter Flights

• "Flight of the Angels" (Zim side) 15 mins	\$175	USD
• Zambezi Spectacular (Zim side) 15 mins	\$309	USD
• Flight of the Angels (Zam side) 15 mins	\$211	USD
• Zambezi Spectacular (Zam side) 30 mins	\$386	USD

#### Microlite Flights (Zambia only)

• Short Flight - 15 mins	\$196	USD
• Long Flight - 30 mins	\$386	USD

#### Zambezi River Cruises

• Sundowner cruise (inc transfer, full bar and snacks)	\$60	USD
• Dinner cruise (inc transfers, full bar, snacks and 3 course dinner)	\$105	USD

#### Horse back safaris

• Horse Rides - Novice, 2 hours	\$145	USD
• Horse Rides - Experienced, 2 hours	\$145	USD

#### Adventure Jetboat

#### Combo Packages

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

#### Upper Zambezi Canoeing

• Zambezi drift - incl. transfers, b'fast, drinks and park fees (7am-2.30 pm)	\$150	USD
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#### Livingstone Island (Zambia - own transport)

• Devils Pool (incl breakfast)	\$135	USD
• Devils Pool (incl lunch)	\$200	USD
• Devils Pool (incl high tea)	\$185	USD

\*subject to availability and season

\*\*visa for Zambia and transfers not included

#### **ZAMBIA including Victoria Falls**

• South Luangwa, extra game drive (depending on season)	60	USD
• Walking safari	85	USD

#### **MALAWI**

• Discover Scuba Diving Lake Malawi – introductory course for those who have never dived before)	\$85	USD
• Scuba diving – 1 qualified day dive	\$55	USD
• Scuba Diving – 1 qualified night dive	\$75	USD
• Scuba Diving – 1 qualified day & night dive	\$115	USD
• Snorkelling at Kande (3 hour trip to island incl. gear)	\$20	USD
• Sunset boat ride to Island (Min 4 people), per person	\$10	USD

#### **TANZANIA**

#### **Zanzibar Island**

<b>Scuba Diving</b>		
• Double tank dive (local)	115 USD	
• Single dive (local) from	65 USD	
• Discover scuba diving	99 USD	
• PADI open water diver (3 days + needed)	499 USD	
 <b>Snorkeling</b>		
Kendwa, from	\$15 USD	
Tumbutu half day, from	\$25 USD	
Mnemba (inc lunch), from	\$45 USD	
 <b>Fishing off the reefs</b>		
Deep sea fishing, boat (takes 5 people), half day from	\$40 USD	
Sunset cruise	\$450 USD	
	\$30 USD	
 <b>Prison Island Entry and transport (depending on numbers)</b>		\$35 - \$45 USD
 <b>Jozani Forest – to visit the red colobus monkeys</b>		
From Stone Town (depending on numbers)	\$40 - \$160 USD	
From North (depending on numbers)	\$55 - \$170 USD	
 <b>Serengeti</b>		
Maasai village	10 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>UGANDA</b>		
<i>At the gorillas</i>		
Please note as you pay for your permit in advance you only need to pay for your transport costs. These are dependent on road conditions. Remember to also budget for a tip if you wish.		
Transport to the gorilla trek start point, 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	
 Kalinzu Forest Chimpanzee trek		130 USD
<i>At Ziwa rhino sanctuary</i>		
Rhino trekking	30 USD	
Shoebill Canoe Trek	\$25 USD	
Birding Tour	\$25 USD	
Nature Walk	\$20 USD	
 <i>Jinja and the White Nile</i>		

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	
Kayak Freedom Rentals (2 people)	\$20 USD/hour
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
<b>KENYA</b>	
<i>Staying by Lake Naivasha</i>	
Hell's Gate National Park Half Day Cycle Trip	\$55 USD
Crater Lake Sanctuary Walk	\$50 USD
Elsamere for afternoon tea, depending on season	\$10 - \$12 USD
Add on guided walk with boat cruise	\$ 30 USD
Night out in Nairobi	\$ 30 USD

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

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

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

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

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

There is a range of availability of things to do from destination to destination on the itinerary. At some places such as Victoria Falls there is a lot of choice and either/or options. It is probably physically impossible to do all there is to do at Victoria Falls. At other destinations, which are quieter, there are fewer choices if you do not opt for the listed optional excursion/s. This is worth noting particularly for optionals that last over one or two nights as you may not wish to be on your own at a campsite for an extended period such as when the goes over to Zanzibar.

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

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

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

## What do I need to bring?

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

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

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

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

### You need to bring:

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

#### **Other items to consider**

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

#### **Essential camping equipment**

- Sleeping bag and sheet
- Eating utensils, including cutlery, cup, plate/bowl.
- Torch and batteries, a head torch being the most useful.
- Mosquito repellent (DEET) 50% strength – 3- bottles
- Insect repellent spray
- High factor sunblock cream
- Lip salve/Chap Stick
- Padlock
- Small personal medical kit including: anti-malarials, vitamin tablets, paracetamol, antibiotic powder, Band-Aids, cotton wool, sterile gloves, flu medication for coughs, colds and sinuses, rehydration salts, sports injury cream for sprains, an antihistamine, 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 antibacterial soap
- Condoms
- Tissues
- A means of securing your hair back is useful such as a bandana, a scarf, beanies, hair ties and clips as it can be windy driving on the truck
- Cigarette lighter
- Concentrated travel washing liquid or washing powder, clothes line
- Emergency sewing kit
- Tweezers, nail scissors, nail brush

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

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

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

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

#### **Consider bringing**

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

## Electrical items

- Smartphone/Music player including headphones if you want to listen to your own music
- Camera in a protective case and spare memory card(s)
- For SLR cameras we recommend a telephoto of 120 mm (or similar) or an 80-200 mm zoom
- 2 camera batteries, including a new one
- Polarising filter/lens hood for SLRs
- USB cable - to connect to internet cafes or for downloading
- Camcorder
- Mobile phone

*Please remember if you set up international roaming the charges will be very high, even to receive calls. Sim cards can be purchased cheaply on the road. Remember you will need to have your phone unlocked prior to arriving in Africa so that other sim cards can be used with it.*

## Charging your equipment

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

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

## Clothes

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

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

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

*Be aware that camouflage clothing should be avoided.*

## Life on your big yellow truck

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

On safari do follow all instructions given by your safari leader as to how to use equipment, move around on, enter and exit the truck as well as how to maintain all supplies. Please also follow all washing and cleaning procedures carefully to avoid infections being spread. Do also ensure you follow all instructions and signs

provided by the local site and activity operators from destination to destination in regard to health, safety and security issues as we travel.

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

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

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

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

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

### **Schedules and Itineraries**

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

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

### **Camping**

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

We also supply high-density foam roll mats.

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

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

net needs to be large enough to tuck in under your roll mat.

There is also the occasional opportunity to upgrade to a dorm-style chalet or simple hut accommodation with a bed if you think you might need a break from camping. This usually costs about 20 USD a night. Availability is very limited though, and you need to be considerate of everyone else on the truck. Do budget accordingly if you might wish to upgrade once or twice on route.

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

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

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

### **Sickness**

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

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

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

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

### **Specialist diets**

For vegetarians we do everything possible to ensure a good supply of veggies, salads, fruit, beans, pasta and rice. The daily diet leans towards vegetarian as fresh quality meat is not easily accessed every day. The staples are beans, pasta, pulses and rice as well as fresh fruit and vegetables when available and in season. In restaurants, when meals are ordered ahead of time, vegetarian options are available with usually good supplies of fresh fruit, veggies and salads.

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

Do be aware though how spoilt we are in the Western world with our constant supplies of fruit and veggies, regardless of the season as well as having access to gluten and lactose free products. In reality and more naturally, fruit and vegetable supplies are seasonal and can be difficult to access while on the road, as with specialty items. We will do all we can to ensure supplies where possible.

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

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

Perhaps the two most important factors to always bear in mind when travelling in Africa are to be constantly vigilant as to your own and your group's health and security.

### **Personal safety**

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **Truck security**

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

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

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

### **Photography**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## General code of conduct

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

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

Day to day, be sensitive and aware of how you and your group are being perceived by those around you. Be alert to where you are, sensitive when taking photos, aware of how much noise we are making, careful of how you are dressed. Everyone wants to have the best time possible in Africa and there are plenty of chances to have a trip of a lifetime. Do please note that excessive noise, obscenities and inappropriate behaviour cannot be tolerated. It can embarrass other members of the group and seriously upset those around us particularly in campsites and restaurants. Be responsive, discreet and sensitive to the world around you.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Please follow all requests from your tour leader in order to keep you and your fellow travellers safe.

## 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.

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

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

If you do need to have something sent to you while travelling, please contact the office as to the best destination and address to use.

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

## Language

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

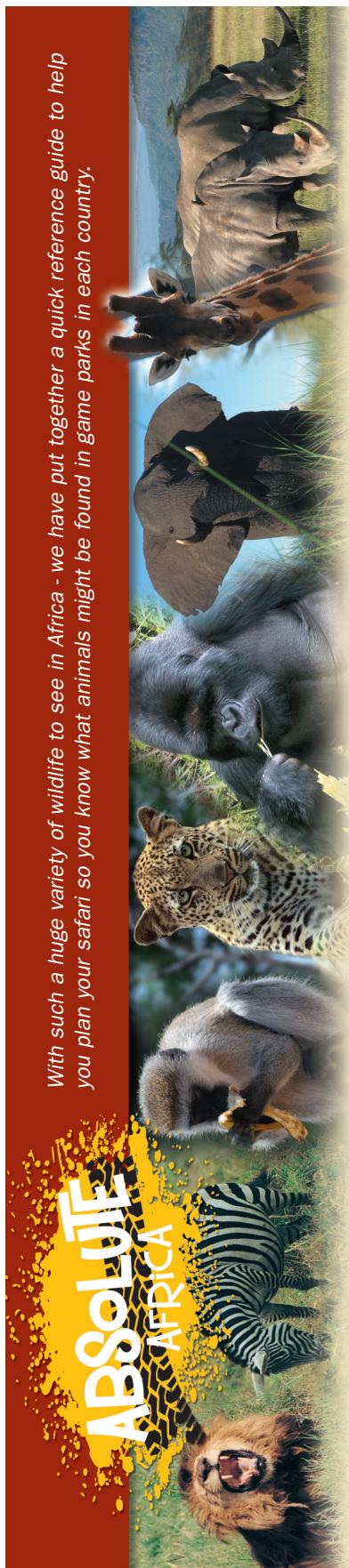
## The Great Migration

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The migration covers over 3,000 kilometres on the 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 Northern Trails safari! (depending on season). Follow the link for our chart which will show you where you are most likely to see the migratory herds each month of the year: <http://www.absoluteafrica.com/migration.lasso>

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

# What and where?

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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.

Group	Name	Average Gestation (months)	Average Life Span (years)	Status	Diet	Distribution as at June 2010						
						Kenya	Uganda	Rwanda	Tanzania	Malawi	Zambia	Zimbabwe
Lion	pride	3.7	15	VU	C	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	herd	22	70	VU	H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
African Elephant	herd	11	17	LC	H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cape Buffalo	solitary	3	20	NT	C	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Leopard	crash/ herd	6	35	CR	H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Rhinoceros	Black	6	35	NT	H	Introduced	Reintroduced	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	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	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Sitatunga	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	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Chimpanzee	troop/congress	6	25	LC	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, OR = Vulnerable, H = Carnivore, C = Omnivore

\* Incubation not gestation

# Reading List

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

David Lamb  
Stuart Stevens  
Karen Blixen  
Karen Blixen  
Laurens Van der Post  
Dian Fossey  
William Boyd  
Doris Lessing  
Doris Lessing  
Peter Matthiessen  
Peter Matthiessen  
Alan Paton  
Martha Gellhorn  
Giles Foden  
Giles Foden  
Peter Godwin  
Alexandra Fuller  
Kuki Gallman  
Sekai Nzenza Shand  
Thomas Pakenham  
J.M. Coetzee  
Martin Meredith  
Martin Meredith  
Tim Butcher  
Aiden Hartlet  
Yoweri Museveni  
Michela Wrong  
Wilbur Smith  
Jason Wallace  
Gill Courtemanche  
Geoff Crowther  
Isabelle Young, Lonely Planet 2000

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

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

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

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

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

**6th May 2025**

