

The Absolute Safari

MAKE TRACKS FOR AFRICA

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

Departure dates for the Absolute Safari

Depart Nairobi			Finish Cape Town	Price	Local Payment
04	Dec	2019	18 Feb 2020	£2,425	US\$1,260
16	Jan	2020	01 Apr 2020	£2,425	US\$1,260
06	Feb	2020	22 Apr 2020	£2,425	US\$1,260
10	Apr	2020	25 Jun 2020	£2,425	US\$1,260
17	May	2020	01 Aug 2020	£2,425	US\$1,260
24	Jun	2020	08 Sep 2020	£2,425	US\$1,260
24	Jul	2020	08 Oct 2020	£2,425	US\$1,260
14	Aug	2020	29 Oct 2020	£2,425	US\$1,260
20	Sep	2020	05 Dec 2020	£2,425	US\$1,260
15	Oct	2020	31 Dec 2020	£2,425	US\$1,260
04	Dec	2020	18 Feb 2021	£2,425	US\$1,260

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

Highlights: Sheldrick's Elephant Orphanage • Giraffe Park • Masai Mara • Maasai boma visit • Rift Valley • Elsamere • Lake Naivasha • Hell's Gate National Park • Crater Lake Sanctuary • Hippo cruise • Lake Nakuru National Park • Whitewater rafting on the White Nile • Kayaking • Volunteer in a local school • Ziwa Rhino Sanctuary • Lake Victoria • Queen Elizabeth National Park with a cruise on Kazinga Channel • Genocide Memorial and Museum • Mountain gorilla trek • Golden monkey trek • Dian Fossey's grave • Orphanage visit • The Grumeti • Serengeti National Park • Ngorongoro Crater • Zanzibar Island • Spice tour • Snorkeling and scuba diving • Mnemba Atoll • Prison Island and the giant tortoise • Dolphin boat cruise

- Red colobus monkey trek • Lake Malawi • Horse riding • South Luangwa National Park • Lake Kariba houseboats • Great Zimbabwe Ruins • Matopos National Park • Rhino trek • Victoria Falls • Whitewater rafting on the Zambezi • Flights over the Falls • Bungee jump • Zambezi gorge swing • Sunset cruise • Chobe National Park • Okavango Delta mokoro safari • Bushmen visit • Etosha National Park • Cheetah sanctuary • Skeleton Coast • Cape Cross Seal Colony • Swakopmund • Dune quad biking • Sandboarding • Tandem skydiving • Township tour • Open-sea fishing • Namib Naukluft National Park • Sossusvlei Dunes • Guided walk on the Dunes • Fish River Canyon • Orange River • Stellenbosch • Wine tour • Cape Town.

Safari structure: From game drives on the rolling plains of the Masai Mara visiting all the highlights through to Cape Town, this safari does it all and is our most popular tour! On this trip you might also meet travellers with less time who will travel with you for shorter sections. On arrival in Cape Town, you can relax for a few days before returning home. Or you may want to extend your time away and travel along the Garden Route with us through to Johannesburg. Please feel free to contact us for further details.

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Flights

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

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

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

As a broad guideline open-jaw flights London – Nairobi, flying out from Cape Town – London vary from £600 in low season to £950 in peak season.

Airlines that fly in to East Africa and out of South Africa including Virgin, Qatar, Emirates, Kenya Airways, KLM and British Airways are the best options for your flights. There are several airlines that fly into Nairobi and out of South Africa including Kenya Airways, KLM and Ethiopian Airways.

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

including www.kulula.com.

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

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

Insurance

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

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

Click on the following link to the page on our website to find out more:
www.absoluteafrica.com/Insurance

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

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

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

Visa requirements for the Absolute Safari

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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. Up to 2 consecutive blank pages can be required when you enter South Africa at the end of your trip. As a guide then, for the Absolute Safari you will need to have a minimum of 10 blank pages (sides).

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

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

Please note that since June 2014 the East African Tourist Visa has been introduced for multiple entry to Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda. Where this visa is being issued it should provide a saving in money and time. For the Absolute Safari it is now being regularly issued on arrival in Nairobi. This visa is reflected in the chart below. It is being charged at \$100 to cover all three countries.

The East African visa is not currently available at the Kenya/Uganda border and so South African nationals can purchase the Ugandan and Rwandan visas separately at the respective borders, as they do not require

a Kenyan visa.

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

Passport	Kenya	Uganda	Rw.	Tanzania	Malawi	Zambia	Zim.	South Africa	Total No.	Total in USD
Australian	\$100	-	-	\$50	\$75	\$50	\$30		5	\$305
New Zealand	\$100	-	-	\$50	\$75	\$50	\$30	<i>Ahead of time</i>	6	\$305 + SA visa charge
South African	-	\$50	\$30-	-	-	-	-		2	\$80
Canadian	\$100	-	-	\$50	\$75	\$50	\$75		5	\$350
American	\$100	-	-	\$100	\$75	\$50	\$30		5	\$355
British	\$100	-	-	\$50	\$75	\$50	\$55		5	\$330
German	\$100	-	-	\$50	\$75	\$50	\$30		5	\$305
Dutch	\$100	-	-	\$50	\$75	\$50	\$30		5	\$305
Irish	\$100	-	-	\$100	-	-	\$55		3	\$255
French	\$100	-	-	\$50	\$75	\$50	\$30		5	\$305

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

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

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

Pre and post safari information

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On day one of the Absolute Safari, we will collect you from either the Heron Portico Hotel at 7.30am on the departure date, or Wildebeest Eco Camp at 8.15am, depending on your location.

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

Accommodation options

THE HERON PORTICO HOTEL

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

Prices for the Heron Portico Hotel are

110 USD for a single en-suite room including breakfast (10,995 Kenyan shillings - KSH))

135 USD for a double en suite room or twin share en suite room including breakfast. (13,495 KSH)

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

US\$25 (2,500 KSH) for 1 person

US\$17 (1,750 KSH) for 2 people

US\$15 (1,500 KSH) for 3 people or more

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

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

Alternatively Wildebeest Camp offers slightly cheaper accommodation.

WILDEBEEST ECO CAMP

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

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

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

Prices for the Wildebeest Camp are:

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

All prices include breakfast.

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

US\$20 (2,000 KSH) for 1 person
US\$15 (1,500 KSH) pp for 2 people

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

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

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

Day trips in Nairobi

If you wish we can arrange tours 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: Upon Request

Other options to consider before your Safari

Climb Kilimanjaro: Arrive 7-9 days prior to climb to the 'roof of Africa', Kilimanjaro. A range of trekking routes are available. For further details contact us or visit <https://www.absoluteafrica.com/Climb-Kilimanjaro-with-Absolute-Africa>

Beach Stays on the Kenyan Coast: Arrive a few days early to unwind on the white beaches of the Kenyan coast. From \$22 pppn in simple beach tree huts. Please contact us for further details.

Departing Nairobi

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

We spend our first day visiting Sheldrick's Elephant Orphanage and The Giraffe Park. There is also time for final preparations for the trip, before we head out on the open road on the second day.

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

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

Security in Nairobi

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

Eating out in Nairobi prior to departure

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

Important pre-safari details

Upon booking this overland trip a form is sent to you on which you can advise us by 10 weeks before departure of all your booking requirements in Nairobi. You can also update us on this form of any change in your details and confirm your insurance details, if you don't know these when booking.

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

Flight departure

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

Arriving in Kenya – Jomo Kenyatta International Airport, Nairobi

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

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

NB: For rough budgeting/banking purposes, in Kenya the exchange rate is currently 1US\$ =104 KSH (November 2019)

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

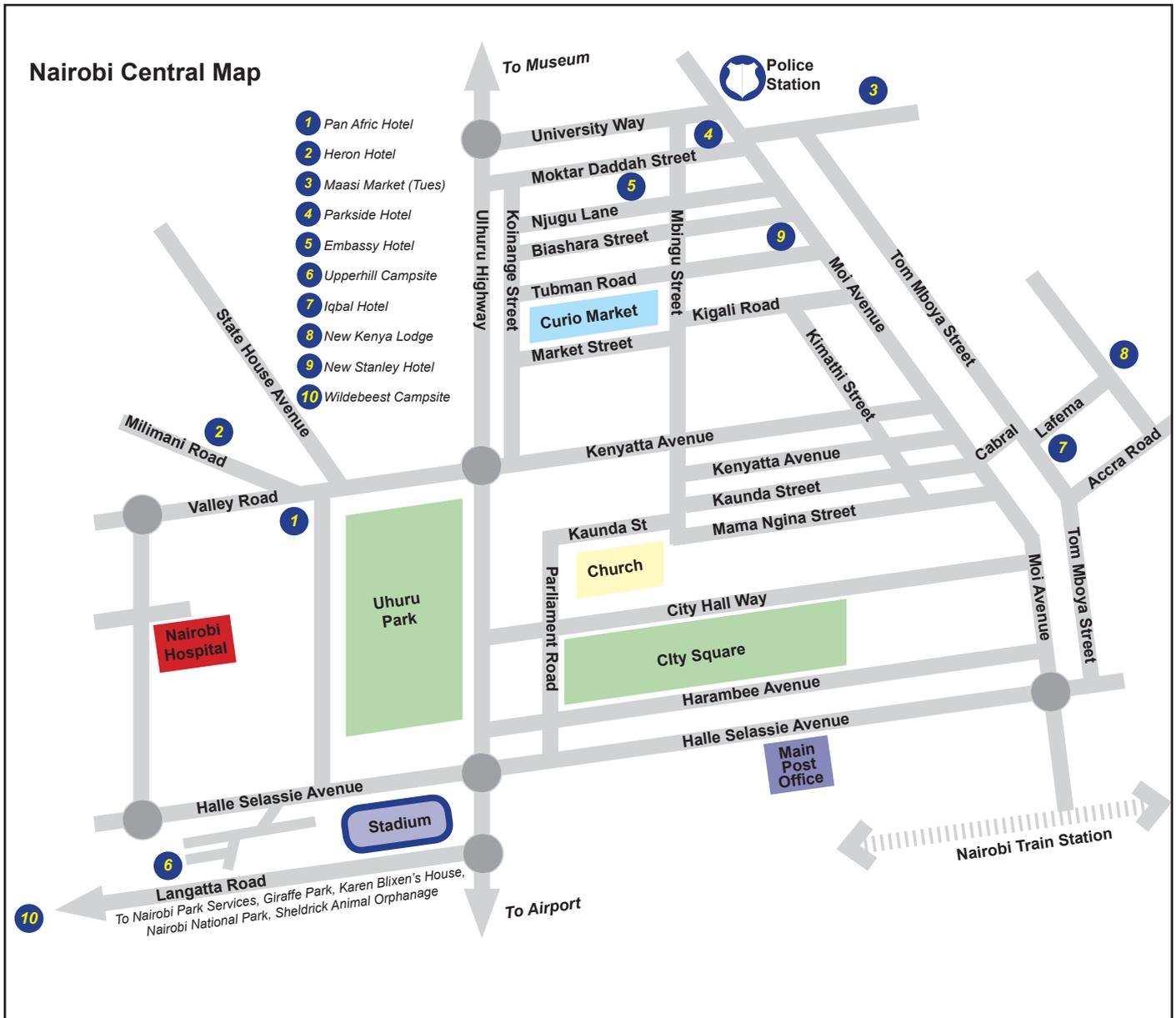
If you would like the Absolute Office to order a taxi for you ahead of time so that there is someone waiting for you at the airport when you arrive do let us know using the previously mentioned form.

If we book a cab in advance for you the cost is approx 1,750 KSH (approx USD 18) per person if 2 people or more, payable with your hotel bill to the Heron, or 2,000 KSH (approx USD 20) per person to the Wildebeest.

This is payable whether you use the taxi or not.

Alternatively the information desks at the airport can help you with taxis, which can be hired at the front of the airport. Do ensure your taxi is licensed and appears in reasonable working condition. Remember also to confirm the fare before you climb in the taxi . A taxi to the Heron from the airport should be approximately 1,500 KSH (approx USD 15) per person; a taxi to Wildebeest will cost slightly more.

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



The end of the safari

The Absolute Safari finishes at Ashanti Lodge at the foot of Table Mountain, Cape Town. Your final night's accommodation in a dorm at the Ashanti Lodge is included in the price.

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

Airport transfers can be arranged and these are R250, approx.18 USD.

Current exchange rate is approximately 1 USD = 14 ZAR (November 2019).

The Ashanti also has a travel shop which can help you with all your onward arrangements including airport

transfers, tours within South Africa including car hire, and coach seats to Johannesburg as well as flights and excursions throughout South Africa.

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

Typical excursions among many that might be of interest:

- Topless Bus Cape Town City Tour R200
- Robben Island R360
Ferry leaves hourly between 9 and 3. Please speak to your leader about booking ahead of time.
- Cable Car to Table Mountain (return) R293
- Abseil Table Mountain R1095
- Paragliding R1300
- Aquarium R175
- Township tour R585
- Cape Malay Cooking Experience - Tuesdays and Saturdays R825
- Cape Point and Peninsular Tour R1100
- Skydiving R2850
- Whale watching tour R1200
- Wine lands tour R880
- White Shark Cage Diving - (inc food, transport and drinks) R2200

Heading further afield

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

For those already booked on the Absolute Safari we offer a special price for this add on safari, £1,145.00. Limited places available so do contact us for further details.

If you need an internal flight: www.kulula.com or alternatively have a look at www.flymango.com

Health and immunisation

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

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

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

You may also like to check out the following websites:

www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk
www.dh.gov.uk

Suggested travel clinics in the United Kingdom

Nomad Travel Stores and Clinics
Tel: 01341 555 061

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

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

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

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

www.traveldoctor.com.au/

www.traveldoctor.co.nz

www.traveldoctor.co.za/

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

Suggested immunisation requirements (This is a guide only)

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

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

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

The choices usually suggested are:

Larium, taken 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-sleeves and long-legged lightweight clothing in light colours as well as socks.
- Always sleep under a mosquito net or in a secure tent with all zips zipped up.
- Wear impregnated wrist and ankle bands.
- You may wish to treat clothing with permethrin.

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

Other medical issues

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

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

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

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

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

The Absolute Safari itinerary

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Day 1: Nairobi, Kenya

We have our Departure Meeting today and on our first morning take the opportunity to visit two well known animal conservation projects in Nairobi, Kenya's capital. At The Giraffe Centre we hand feed giraffe in the beautiful grounds of the Giraffe Manor. There is also the option to visit Sheldrick's Elephant Orphanage which introduces us to the work being done to protect Africa's elephants and other species.

Our first evening together we take time to get to know our fellow travellers. To bed early though tonight, as it is an early rise tomorrow.

Distance: 0 kms

Est. Drive Time: 0 hours

Meals: X1 Dinner

Included wildlife activity: The Giraffe Park

Optional excursion: Sheldrick's Elephant Orphanage

Day 2: Nairobi to Loita Hills

Today the adventure truly begins. We have an early breakfast then set out for the bumpy and dusty road heading for the remote plateau of the Masai Mara.

En route we overnight at Loita Hills where we stay with the Maasai, East Africa's most renowned ancient people who proudly retain so many of their traditional ways. We are welcomed with traditional songs and dance.

This afternoon we walk in the hills with Maasai warriors and learn about traditional life in the bush. We will also visit a women's village and the local hot springs. In the evening we spend time with some of the

warriors around the fire to find out more about their culture.

Distance: 261 kms

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

Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Dinner

Days 3 - 4: Loita Hills to the Masai Mara

Up early we have time for some “warrior training” this morning before we say goodbye to our Maasai hosts. We visit the local Maasai school, then are on the road to Kenya’s most famous game reserve, the Masai Mara.

Here, on the renowned stage of the wildebeest migration, we have our first game drives in small 4x4s with a local guide over the next days. We are on the watch for all the wildlife for which Africa is famous from elephant to lion, cheetah, zebra, giraffe, hippo, crocodile, gazelle and warthog. The second night allows us a good amount of time to explore deep into this extraordinary park. A morning balloon safari can also be arranged.

Distance, Day 3: 60 kms

Est. Drive Time, Day 3: 2 hours

Meals: X2 Breakfasts, X2 Dinners

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

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

Optional excursion: Balloon Safari

Days 5 - 6: Masai Mara to Lake Naivasha

This morning we have our last game drive in the Mara. We then leave the park by lunchtime to head for our next camp at Lake Naivasha.

At Naivasha by day, hippo wallow in the lake and at night they come out to graze on the lawns near our camp. There are numerous highlights on offer. A cycling safari can be arranged in Hell’s Gate National Park where you can see evidence of past volcanic activity, as well as a range of wildlife including gazelle, impala, eland and the fascinating and abundant bird and plant life of the region. The Maasai Cultural Centre in the park also allows further insight into the Maasai people.

Alternative options are to take a guided walk to the Crater Lake Game Sanctuary, head out on a hippo cruise on the lake as well as enjoy high tea at Elsamere, the home of Joy Adamson of ‘Born Free’ fame, where we can also enjoy the antics of the black and white colobus monkeys on the lawns of the Conservation Centre.

Distance, Day 5: 258 kms

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

Meals: X2 Breakfasts, X2 Dinners

Included wildlife activity: Morning game drive, Masai Mara

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

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

Days 7 - 8: Naivasha to Nakuru

Leaving Naivasha we head to our next camp near Nakuru National Park. Here we can enjoy a swim in the swimming pool at the camp.

Our next highlight is a day of game drives in Nakuru National Park amongst acacia forests, grasslands and candelabra euphorbia stands. There is a chance to see both black and white rhino, zebra, giraffe, eland and, with a little luck, lion and leopard. The soda lake can be pink with greater and lesser flamingo, and at Baboon Cliffs you can enjoy the views across this very special place.

Distance, Day 7: 70 kms

Est. Drive Time, Day 7: 3 hours incl. a stop for shopping
Meals: X2 Breakfasts, X2 Dinners

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

Days 9 - 10: Nakuru to Jinja, Uganda

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

The following day we cross into Uganda and head for our camp by the White Nile at Jinja, just downstream from the source of the Nile.

Jinja is an adventure hub and we have a briefing in regard to all the activities available to us over the next two days.

Distance over 2 days: 420 kms

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

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

Meals: X2 Breakfasts, X1 Dinner

Days 11 - 12: Jinja

After several days on the road we enjoy a welcome break from travelling. Jinja is known as Uganda's adventure capital. Spend a day white water rafting or kayaking in the equatorial sunshine. Experience the thrill of the 'Nile High' Bungee. There are also options to explore this lush tropical region on quad bikes, mountain bikes or on horseback.

Many also enjoy helping out in a local preschool, or explore on a village walk. This is a good chance as well to catch up on washing, and to relax and sample food available in small local restaurants or at the campsite restaurant.

Distance: 0 kms

Est. Drive Time: 0 hours

Meals: None

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

Day 13: Jinja to Ziwa Rhino Sanctuary

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

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

Distance: 225 kms

Est. Drive Time: 4 hours

Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Dinner

Included wildlife activity: Entry to Ziwa Rhino Sanctuary

Optional excursions: Rhino trek, boat ride

Day 14: Ziwa Rhino Sanctuary to Kampala

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

Distance: 170 kms

Est. Drive Time: 3 hours

Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Dinner

Days 15 - 16: Kampala to Queen Elizabeth National Park

The next day we leave camp and head into the lush countryside of Uganda. Watch for the long horned Ankole cattle. On the way we stop at a local drum and craft market, and at the Equator there is time for a photo shoot.

We head on to a simple camp by the hillside tropical forest of Kalinzu on the edge of the Rift Valley and Queen Elizabeth National Park. Here we have the option of early morning chimpanzee trekking on day 16 in lush forest to search for habituated chimpanzees. The park also has black and white colobus monkey and other monkey species.

The afternoon finds us on our next game drive transiting in Queen Elizabeth National Park, to our stop off for a game cruise on the Kazinga Channel.

On the cruise, sit back and enjoy the company of hippo from the safety of a boat. Buffalo also can be seen by the Channel. The occasional Nile crocodile dozes nearby on the banks, blending into the surroundings, disarmingly motionless. Watch kingfishers diving behind us to catch small fish disorientated by the slowly passing boat. There are also elephant, lion, hyena and leopard in the park.

Distance, Day 15: 230 kms

Distance, Day 16: 40 kms

Est. Drive Time, Day 15: 8.5 hours incl. stops for lunch and photos at The Equator

Est. Drive Time, Day 16: 1 hour

Meals: X2 Breakfasts, X2 Dinners

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

Conducted in open cruise vessel

Slow transit afternoon drive, Queen Elizabeth National Park

Vehicle for transit drive: Overland truck

Optional Excursion: Chimpanzee trek in Kalinzu Forest

Days 17 - 18: Queen Elizabeth National Park to Kisoro

This morning we head back into the park for an early morning game drive where we watch once more for special sightings. The park is a haven for around 600 species of bird. Ugandan Kob are found in the wetlands, famous for their beautiful horns. Like waterbuck, the kob tends to develop attachments to locations, returning to the same grazing and watering places.

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

Distance, Day 17: 218 kms

Distance, Day 18: 75 kms

Est. Drive Time, Day 17: 7 hours incl. lunch stop

Est. Drive Time, Day 18: 3 hours

Meals: X2 Breakfasts, X2 Dinners

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

Vehicle for game drive: Overland truck

Day 19: Kisoro

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

There are several other excursions on offer here as well apart from the trek. For another view of the gorilla 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. Alternatively a tour to an indigenous group of Batwa or Pygmy can also be organised in Kisoro, this group of local peoples sadly having being relocated away from their traditional life in the forest. Alternatively a Pygmy dance troupe are invited to our camp to entertain with some traditional drumming.

Distance: 0

Est. Drive Time: 0

Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Dinner

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

Day 20: Kisoro to Musanze, Rwanda

Today we leave Uganda to enter Rwanda “the Land of a Thousand Hills”. Our next camp is involved in very simple community based projects including basket weaving and banana beer making.

Alternatively a cycle tour in the local area can be arranged.

Distance: 51 kms

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

Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Dinner

Optional excursions: Golden monkey trek, banana beer making, basket weaving, bike tour.

Days 21 - 22: Musanze to Kigali

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

If you are not trekking we head off early, making our way to the capital Kigali, a very European style city. For those trekking, a transfer is arranged for later in the day through to Kigali.

We spend the next two nights in Kigali, the modern capital of Rwanda. A country that has had a turbulent history, Rwanda has now moved rapidly forward in an attempt to put their past behind them. We honour and reflect on this past during a visit to the Genocide Memorial in the capital Kigali. Some also take time to visit the Nyamata Church Memorial, or a Women’s Centre, Hotel des Mille Collines (well known from the movie Hotel Rwanda), or wander in the local markets.

Distance, Day 21: 115 kms

Est. Drive Time, Day 21: 3 hours

Meals: X2 Breakfasts, X2 Dinners

Optional excursions: Trek to Dian Fossey’s grave, Visit to the Genocide museum and memorial, Nyamata Church Memorial.

Days 23 – 24: Kigali to Mwanza, Tanzania

We now cross the border to enter Tanzania below Lake Victoria. Over two days travelling off the beaten track we see a little of the ‘real Africa’ away from the main tourist drag.

We stay in a small local guest house on our first night in Tanzania in Nyakanazi away from Western comforts. We eat locally and there is time on our journey to mingle in the village markets and kick a football with the local kids.

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

Distance over two days: 535 kms

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

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

Meals: X2 Breakfasts, X2 Dinners

Days 25 -26: Mwanza to Ngiri, central Serengeti

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

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

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

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

Distance to Bunda, Day 25: 156 kms

Est. Drive Time, Day 25: 3 – 4 hours incl. lunch stop

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

Est. Drive Time, Day 26: 5 hours to Ikoma Gate incl. slow transit through Grumeti.

Meals: X2 Breakfasts, X2 Dinners

Included wildlife activity: Afternoon game drive, Serengeti National Park

Vehicle for game drive: Overland truck

Optional excursion: Hill walk

Day 27: Central Serengeti to Ngorongoro Conservation Area

Up early, we head out on morning game drives in the Serengeti National Park. For the best vantage point of sunrise, a balloon safari can be arranged in advance to drift in silence over the immense Serengeti plains offering this panoramic landscape from an entirely different perspective.

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

Semi-nomadic Maasai tribespeople can be found as well throughout this region still living their traditional lifestyle around the Crater rim, shunning modern ways. They continue to dye their hair with ochre and live on a diet of milk and blood obtained from their cattle. They can be regularly seen herding their cattle dressed in their distinctive red check. Another visit to a Maasai boma is arranged time permitting.

Our landscape changes as our drive takes us above Ngorongoro Crater, the world's largest extinct volcano. We have our evening meal. Our camp has sweeping views across the Crater, another camp in the wilds under African stars.

Distance: 161 kms

Est. Drive Time: 5 hours

Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Dinner

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

Vehicle for game drive: Overland truck

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

departure.

Day 28: Ngorongoro Crater to Arusha

After an early breakfast, we transfer over to 4 X 4 landcruisers with special pop up game viewing roofs to descend 2,000 feet into the Crater, where we can view rhino, hippo, lion, elephant, hyena, buffalo, zebra, impala, wildebeest, cheetah, monkey, ostrich and flamingo.

After our morning game drives in the Crater and a picnic lunch we travel to Arusha, usually with time to purchase traditional beads, carvings and special artwork at a market stall on the way. We enjoy a group barbecue together to celebrate all we have seen in the Tanzanian parks.

Distance: 195 kms

Est. Drive Time: 3 - 4 hours

Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Dinner

Included wildlife activity: Morning game drive, Ngorongoro Crater

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

Days 29 – 30: Arusha to Marangu

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

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

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

Distance, Day 29: 120 kms

Est. Drive Time, Day 29: 3 hours

Meals: X2 Breakfasts, X2 Dinners

Optional excursions: Kilimanjaro day hike, Marangu day tour

Day 31: Marangu to Bagamoyo or Dar es Salaam

We head south today parking up on the coast.

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

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

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

Distance: 485 (545 if to Dar) kms

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

Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Dinner

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

Days 32 - 35: Optional stay on Zanzibar Island

Day 32 we leave camp for the ferry port in Dar es Salaam to take the ferry to Zanzibar. The tour leader travels over to the island with the group to ensure that all runs smoothly during our stay.

Swim and snorkel in the crystal clear, coral waters, relax on the long white beaches and enjoy the fresh local seafood during our beach cottage stay. Scuba diving can be arranged from the dive centre near the beach cottages, as well as fishing trips. Otherwise book a snorkelling trip to Prison Island famous for its giant Aldabra tortoise, or to Mnemba Atoll, or visit the turtle sanctuary or trek in Jozani Forest to see the red colobus monkeys amongst beautiful scenery on the mangrove walkway.

On the last day of our stay, explore the ancient capital of Stone Town, with its maze of winding streets, coral brick houses and bazaars. A spice tour provides some history of the island centred on the slave and spice trades.

Distance, Day 32: 60 kms Bagamoyo to Dar es Salaam
Est. Drive Time, Day 32: Up to 2 hours Bagamoyo to Dar es Salaam
Meals, Day 32: 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

Day 36: Zanzibar Island to Morogoro

Leaving the island we head west to Morogoro where we stay the night before continuing our journey.

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

Day 37: Morogoro to Iringa

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

Distance: 310 kms
Est. Drive Time: 9 hours incl. lunch stop
Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Dinner

Days 38 - 41: Iringa to Kande, Malawi

Journeying through the mountains of the southern Rift Valley, we arrive in Malawi, known as 'Africa's warm heart'.

Travelling south down the freshwater lakeshore, we make regular stops at the bays. The beaches provide excellent locations for the relaxed and popular campsites where we stay. We can fish with the locals, take village walks, and enjoy a wide variety of water sports including snorkelling, canoeing, pedalo hire and scuba diving.

Horse riding is also popular – particularly the swim ride in which you can ride bareback in the lake. Hikes can be arranged in Malawi's beautiful countryside and to local villages, where there is always a welcome from the villagers with a local meal. Enjoy bartering with local craftsmen selling African artefacts including traditional Malawi chairs.

Distance, Day 38: 498 kms
Distance, Day 39 or 40: 235 kms
Est. Drive Time, Day 38: 11 hours (depending on the border)
Est. Drive Time, Day 39 or 40: +/- 5 hours incl. stop for shopping
Meals: X4 Breakfasts, X4 Dinners

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

Days 42 – 43: Lake Malawi to South Luangwa National Park, Zambia

We travel to Zambia today, heading for one of the country's treasures – South Luangwa National Park. Slightly off the beaten track, Luangwa is a stunning national park with high populations of game, including 60 different animal species and 400 different bird species.

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

Distance: 600 kms

Est. Drive Time, Day 42: +/- 11 hours (depending on the border) and incl. stops for shopping and lunch

Meals: X2 Breakfasts, X2 Dinners

Included wildlife activity: X1 game drive in South Luangwa National Park

Vehicle for game drive: Open 4x4 safari vehicle

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

Days 44 – 45: South Luangwa to Lusaka

We now make our way towards Lusaka the modern capital of Zambia. Here we catch up on communications and stock up on supplies.

Distance over two days: 560 kms

Est. Drive Time, Day 44: +/- 6 hours incl. stop for lunch and shopping

Est. Drive Time, Day 45: +/- 6 hours

Meals: X2 Breakfasts, X2 Dinners

Days 46 - 47: Lusaka to Lake Kariba, Zimbabwe

Optional stay on Lake Kariba houseboats

From Lusaka we travel to the Kariba border and cross into Zimbabwe.

Arriving at Lake Kariba we hire a houseboat for all who want to set sail into Matusadona National Park to relax for a couple of nights on the boat whilst enjoying nature at its best.

Enjoy the wildlife so often on view – elephant, waterbuck and zebra, as well as hippo and crocodile as we cruise through the park. Famous for its tiger fish, the Lake is a wonderful fishing destination too and we can take tender boats out on the lake to fish as well as get up close to wildlife. The houseboat also has bedrooms, a jacuzzi, entertainment areas and the houseboat crew cook our meals, so we enjoy a fun change from camping and life on the road. The sunsets over the Lake are gorgeous, the rich colours spilling across the sky creating a wonderful backdrop for the leadwood trees in the lake.

This is an outing always popular with all local Zimbabweans. For those who want to stay back you can relax at the campsite.

Distance, Day 46: 208 kms

Est. Drive Time, Day 46: 4 - 5 hours depending on the border and incl. photo stop at Lake Kariba dam wall

Meals: X2 Breakfasts, X2 Dinners

Optional excursion: Houseboat cruise on Lake Kariba

Days 48 - 49: Lake Kariba to Great Zimbabwe Ruins

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

Distance, Day 48: 249 kms

Est. Drive Time, Day 48: +/- 6 hours incl. shopping stop

Distance, Day 49: 440 kms

Est. Drive Time, Day 49: 9 hours incl. shopping and lunch stops

Meals: X2 Breakfasts, X2 Dinners

Days 50 - 51: Great Zimbabwe Ruins to Bulawayo

This morning we have a guided tour of the ruins before continuing on our way to the city of Bulawayo.

Arriving into Zimbabwe's second largest city, we organize our safari into Matopos National Park.

Matopos is set in an area of spectacular scenery of large balancing granite boulders, which lead Mzilikazi, founder of the Ndebele nation, to give the area its name, which means 'Bald Heads'. Cecil Rhodes and several other leading early white settlers are buried amongst the rocky outcrops. There are also very special San Bushmen cave paintings found in the hills.

The Park is home to both black and white rhino, giraffe, hippo, leopard and has a wonderful amount of birdlife including black eagle. We trek to see rhino here with one of Zimbabwe's most knowledgeable professional guides. For many this is one of the most thrilling highlights of the trip.

Distance, Day 50: 307 kms

Est. Drive Time, Day 50: 3 - 4 hours

Meals: X2 Breakfasts, X2 Dinners

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

Vehicle for game drive: Open 4x4 safari vehicle

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

Day 52: Bulawayo to Victoria Falls

Today we head to Victoria Falls - 'Mosi-Oa-Tunya', 'the smoke that thunders'. The Falls provide breathtaking views of sheer drops and raging waters. Mists from the Falls rise metres into the air and have given rise to a lush tropical rainforest along the rim.

Distance: 438 kms

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

Meals: X1 Breakfast

Days 53 - 54: Victoria Falls

We stay for two days to absorb all that the area has to offer – from adrenalin-pumping activities, fun nightlife and a variety of markets to the rainforest walk by the Falls.

Do take time to wander the forest to explore different views of the waterfalls, and a sunset cruise on the Zambezi is a very enjoyable way to watch the sun go down. You may also choose to go white water rafting in the gorge, bungee jump, gorge swing, abseil or take a flight over the Falls known as 'The Flight of the Angels' for breathtaking views.

Distance: 0 kms

Est. Drive Time: 0 hours

Meals: None

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

Days 55 - 56: Victoria Falls to Kasane, Botswana

Travelling south into Botswana, Chobe National Park is our next stop where we take a gentle cruise down the river particularly to view elephant on the shoreline, as well as much more of Africa's wildlife. Giraffes browse the acacia trees and elephants lumber through a park rich with game. The park also has strong lion prides, and game drives regularly provide viewing of giraffe, lechwe, kudu, impala herds, buffalo, wonderful bird life and much more.

There is time as well to explore further if you wish to go on a game drive in small safari vehicles with a guide to take advantage of all there is on offer in this park.

Distance, Day 55: 87 kms
Est. Drive Time, Day 55: 3 hours (depending on the border)
Meals: X2 Breakfasts, X2 Dinners

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

Day 57: Kasane to Maun

Leaving Chobe, we travel via the Makgadikgadi Pans to Maun, set on the edge of the Kalahari Desert.

Distance: 666 kms
Est. Drive Time: 9 hours incl. stop for lunch
Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Dinner

Days 58 – 60: Maun - Optional mokoro safari in the Okavango Delta

From Maun we organise our mokoro safari into the Okavango Delta with trained local guides.

The mokoro is the traditional dugout canoe of the Delta boatmen, and on this safari we are poled through the tranquil, crystal-clear waterways of lilies and beds of papyrus reeds. This lush wetland is home to some of Africa's finest bird life and unusual flora, and there is also a chance to see elephant, hippo, crocodile and the special sitatunga and lechwe. We camp on small islands to take guided game walks during our stay. A sunset mokoro ride is a very special treat.

After our mokoro safari we have one last night in Maun.

Distance: 0 kms
Est. Drive Time: 0 hours
Meals: X3 Breakfasts, X3 Dinners

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

Days 61 – 63: Maun to Etosha National Park, Namibia

Leaving Maun we travel into very different terrain as we head into Namibia.

En route to our camp on day 62 we stop over to visit traditional Bushmen near Grootfontein. We also visit the Hoba meteorite, the world's largest.

We are then on our way to Etosha National Park to camp within Namibia's most famous game park over two nights.

Distance over three days: 1,111 kms
Est. Drive Time, Day 61: +/- 13 hours (depending on the border) incl. lunch stop
Est. Drive Time, Day 62: 4 - 5 hours
Est. Drive Time, Day 63: +/- 5 hours to Etosha entrance, then afternoon game drives in Etosha
Meals: X3 Breakfasts, X3 Dinners

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

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

Day 64: Etosha National Park

The local Owambo people call Etosha 'the place of dry water'. The blinding white surface of the salt pan desert covers an area the size of Switzerland and in summer, violent squalls transform it into a vast shallow lake, providing a breeding ground for thousands of flamingos. A vast array of animals live around the Pan, including elephant, lion, gemsbok, zebra, black rhino, giraffe, cheetah and leopard.

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

also a special treat in this park.

Distance: 0 kms

Est. Drive Time: Game drives through the day

Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Dinner

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

Vehicle for game drives: Overland truck

Optional excursion: Evening game drive.

Day 65: Etosha National Park to Africat, Otjiwarongo

Following our last morning game drive we leave Etosha travelling via Outjo to visit the Africat Foundation. This is a non-profit organization focusing on the conservation of Namibia's predators, particularly cheetah, in their natural habitat. Here we can actively take part in the programme and learn more about these beautiful and amazing animals.

Distance: 182 kms

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

Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Dinner

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

Vehicle for game drive: Overland truck

Days 66 – 67: Otjiwarongo to Swakopmund

There is an option of an early morning game drive before travelling to the amazing Spitzkoppe rock formations tonight. Sunset is truly amazing here with the rocks changing colours every minute. It is another night under the stars.

The next day we travel to Cape Cross seal colony, a breeding colony of 200,000 Cape fur seals, and then on to Swakopmund, home to some of the finest open-sea fishing in the world, where we check in to a lodge to give us a break from life on the truck and camping.

Distance over two days: 534 kms

Est. Drive Time, Day 66: 4 hours

Est. Drive Time, Day 67: +/- 4.5 hours

Meals: X2 Breakfasts, X1 Dinner

Included wildlife activity: Cape Cross Seal colony visit

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

Days 68 – 69: Swakopmund

For the adrenalin junkie in Swakopmund there's quad biking, sand boarding and skydiving. Go-karting is popular as are the township tours, horse riding and of course fishing.

Distance: 0 kms

Est. Drive Time: 0 hours

Meals: None

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

Day 70: Swakopmund to Sesriem

Sossusvlei, within the Namib Naukluft National Park, offers thousand-foot high sand dunes to explore. Here we can visit the Sesriem Gorge in the afternoon.

Distance: 344 kms

Est. Drive Time: 8.5 hours incl. lunch stop

Meals: X1 Dinner

Days 71 - 72: Sesreim to Ai Ais

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

We travel on to the Fish River Canyon, reputedly the second largest canyon in the world, before heading to our camp at Ai Ais to enjoy a soak in the hot springs in the lower reaches of the Canyon.

Distance over two days: 613 kms

Est. Drive Time, day 71: +/- 5 hours

Est. Drive Time, day 72: +/- 9 hours incl. stop at the Canyon

Meals: X2 Breakfasts, X2 Dinners

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

Optional excursion: Visit to Sossusvlei

Day 73: Ai Ais to Orange River

Our camp today on our way into South Africa is by the Orange River that marks the border between Namibia and South Africa. We can enjoy a relaxed canoe through some of the most rugged terrain in Southern Africa.

Distance: 179 kms

Est. Drive Time: 3 hours incl. shopping

Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Dinner

Optional excursion: Orange River canoeing

Days 74 - 76: Orange River to Stellenbosch, South Africa

Travelling into the wine areas of Cape Province we have a two-night stay in the historic town of Stellenbosch. Here we have the opportunity to taste the region's finest produce on a wine tour.

Distance over two days: 678 kms

Est. Drive Time, Day 74: +/- 10 hours incl. shopping and lunch stop (depending on the border)

Est. Drive Time, Day 75: 6 hours

Meals: X2 Breakfasts, X1 Dinner

Optional excursion: Wine tour

Day 77: Stellenbosch to Cape Town

Our final day's travel is from Stellenbosch to Ashanti Lodge, in Cape Town, our journey's end. We have our last meal together against the extraordinary backdrop of the 1,000-metre high Table Mountain. Cape Town is a wonderful place to relax with plenty of attractions, shopping and cocktail bars.

The Travel Shop at Ashanti can assist you with all you wish to do – including white shark diving, a visit to Robben Island where Mandela was imprisoned during the apartheid era and a visit to the Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve.

If you want to explore further afield, a safari in Kruger National Park can be arranged. Or consider continuing on our Garden Route tour. This follows on from our arrival in Cape Town with two extra days in Cape Town, visiting a picturesque section of South Africa's coastline, as well as Lesotho and the Drakensberg Mountains before finishing in Johannesburg, the 'City of Gold'.

Distance: 53 kms

Est. Drive Time: 2 - 3 hours

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

Optional excursion: Meal out at a restaurant

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

Other Information

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Gorilla trekking

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

A few things to note about your gorilla trek

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Do be aware the gorillas are located in an area that is subject to some ongoing political unrest. The Rwandan and Ugandan Armies work very hard to maintain security in the region. Gorilla tourism is an important contributor to the Ugandan and Rwandan economy. There is a significant army presence on all

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

Zanzibar Island

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

Step off the plane in Africa with...

8. Spending money – This is very individual and often depends on how much you drink, shop and wish to upgrade. A suggested budget would be 1,650 - 2,000 USD.
9. Local Payment – 1,260 USD
10. Optional excursions – A traveller who wishes to do most optionals on the trip will spend an average of between 1,000 - 1,700 USD.
11. Visas : 100 - 355 USD depending on nationality. Purchasing visas in Africa in US dollars for the above passports is currently cheaper than buying ahead of time.
12. Pre and Post safari costs

Please note: *You need to carry money with you out to Africa to cover Items 8 to 12 (i.e. for your spending money, local payment, optionals, visas and pre and post safari costs). The figures above are conservative estimates for average spending per person on safari. There is a lot of variation in how much spending money individuals need as this is dictated by personal choice, as is your budget for optional activities. We have no control over local operators' charges and new or other options that become available after our date of printing. Nor can we control exchange rate fluctuations, which can impact on budgets as some items are only payable in USD or are cheaper when purchased in USD. USD often tends to be the preferred currency. Figures quoted are based on regular information we receive from operators, passengers and crew in the past 12 months. You are advised that prices do go up and down very regularly. Our aim is to keep you informed of the most recent prices. In general you will often find that whilst some*

prices are underestimated at other times they are overestimated.

How do I take this money to Africa?

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

USD cash

We are finding clients find it most convenient to take approximately USD 2,200 - 2,500 cash on this trip. This includes money for your local payment, visa payments, some optionals and occasionally to buy local currency when you can't get to a bank or forex bureau, assuming you are also carrying some sterling or euro cash to use for purchasing local currency for spending money as well.

Please note that in general USD notes need to be dated 2008 or later and in good condition. When arranging your USD cash a range of is probably the most convenient including a few 5 USD and 10 USD notes as well as 20s, 50s and 100s.

Remember you will need 100 USD for your East Africa visa when you land at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport in Nairobi unless you are travelling on a South African passport. Also do have suitable notes organised to pay the exact amount for your local payment if at all possible. Your local payment is payable on Day One of the trip.

Pounds Sterling and Euro cash

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

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

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

When you arrive in Nairobi, you should change up enough money into Kenyan shillings to cover all your personal needs, such as accommodation, transfers and meals including breakfast for the first day before you meet the truck. Please note breakfast is not provided on the first day of the safari.

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

When you land in Nairobi there are a couple of banks on the right just before you come to Customs at Nairobi airport. Cash is carried at your own discretion and should be organised before you leave for Kenya.

ATM access and Paying by Card

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

For your information the currencies you will meet are:

Kenya	Kenyan shillings
Uganda	Ugandan shillings
Rwanda	Rwandan francs
Tanzania	Tanzanian shillings
Malawi	Malawian kwacha
Zambia	Zambian kwacha
Botswana	Botswanan pula
Namibia	Namibian dollars
South Africa	South African rand

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

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

What we cover from the price and local payment?

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

- The Masai Mara (two nights)
- Nakuru National Park
- Queen Elizabeth National Park
- A game cruise on the Kazinga Channel
- The Serengeti
- Ngorongoro Crater
- The Grumeti Game Reserve
- South Luangwa National Park
- Matopos National Park with a rhino trek
- Etosha National Park (two nights)
- The Giraffe Park
- Maasai village visit incl. bush walk
- Lake Naivasha
- Bujagali
- Ziwa Rhino Sanctuary
- Kigali - Genocide Memorial
- Lake Victoria
- Mikumi National Park
- Lake Malawi
- Great Zimbabwe Ruins
- Bushmen visit
- Africat Carnivore Care, Otjiwarongo
- Namib Naukluft National Park
- Spitzkoppe
- Sossusvlei Dunes
- Fish River Canyon
- Cape Cross Seal Colony

WE ALSO INCLUDE

- A fully equipped and diesel expedition truck/vehicle including all camping and cooking gear, a fridge, gas cooker, tents, sleeping mats

- Services of a driver and safari leader
- The ongoing advice and back up from The Absolute Team
- All road tolls and taxes are paid

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

- 63 breakfasts & 62 dinners whilst travelling on the truck, including some pre-prepared barbeques and local meals, as well as a contribution to the final group meal in Cape Town
- 60 nights camping and 9 nights dorm accommodation in a lodge or similar (1 night Nykhanazi basic local lodge, 2 nights Kisoro local lodge, 3 nights Swakopmund, 2 nights Stellenbosch, 1 final night Cape Town at Ashanti Lodge)

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- Flights including taxes
- Optional excursions as listed
- Pre and post tour Add Ons, as well as airport transfers and accommodation
- Lunch and drinks throughout, as well as breakfast and dinner when the truck parks up at Jinja, Dar es Salaam, Victoria Falls, Swakopmund and Stellenbosch
- Camping costs if not participating in the overnight excursions: Zanzibar Island (4 nights), Lake Kariba Houseboats (2 nights) and the Okavango Delta (2 nights)
- Other incidentals including for tips, internet use, upgrades from camping and the occasional cheap excursion such as local walks
- Visas
- Equipment including sleeping bag, torch, eating utensils and personal medical kit
- Personal travel insurance
- Vaccinations and anti-malarials

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 budget is also calculated to cover meals, and occasionally camping, those times when the truck is not on the road. In some destinations where there are popular overnight excursions such as on Zanzibar Island or on the houseboats on Lake Kariba meals and camping are not covered. At other busy destinations such as Victoria Falls accommodation is covered but there is so much happening it is impractical to organise meals from the truck. You may also need to spend on personal costs such as email, toiletries etc.

Some weeks you will spend more and other weeks less. The current recommendation to carry as personal spending money for this safari is 1,650 - 2,000 USD. Allow an extra 30 USD per week approximately if you think you might want to occasionally upgrade your accommodation to stay in chalets, which are available at some campsites.

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

Regularly 'smallish' optional activities costing under 20 USD also arise and 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, Ngorongoro Crater, houseboats at Lake Kariba and the Okavango Delta. You may find that you want to organise these tips as a group or individually.

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

Crew tips are certainly not expected although the Absolute crew do work incredibly hard and often much of this work is done behind the scenes, before or after the group is up and about. A tip or small gift is always

appreciated and is also a way to show your appreciation of their efforts if you have had an enjoyable trip.

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

Optional activities

These excursions are paid for in Africa with the exception of the gorilla permit and the Zanzibar Island stay, which are booked and paid for in advance in London if you wish to do these options. Do note these excursions are run by local operators on the ground. They are not run by Absolute Africa.

Please contact us if you would like further information about any of these activities or excursions. Many of the optionals are payable in Africa in USD (cash). A few may be payable in local currencies. (Prices guide only as at November 2019)

KENYA

- Elephant sanctuary KSH 500 (8 USD)

Staying by Lake Naivasha

- Hells Gate National Park half day cycle trip 55 USD
- Crater Lake Sanctuary walk 45 USD
- Elsamere for afternoon tea 1050 Ksh 12 USD
- Hippo boat cruise 30 USD

UGANDA

Jinja and the White Nile

White Water rafting packages

Whitewater rafting on the White Nile (full day 30 km) 140 USD

grade 5 rapids with breakfast, light lunch, dinner, sodas and beers

Whitewater rafting on the White Nile (half day) 115 USD

Extreme Rafting 160 USD

Full day rafting/river board trip 160 USD

Combos

Raft and cruise 160 USD

Extreme raft and cruise 180 USD

Tandem kayak and cruise 180 USD

Riverboard and cruise 180 USD

SUP (Stand up paddle boarding) rental per hour 15 USD

2 hour Bujagali SUP tour 40 USD

Nile Sup ½ day guided trip 95 USD

Source of the Nile lunch cruise 30 USD

Nile sunset cruise with snacks/drinks 45 USD

Bungee jump - 44 metres over the Nile river 95 USD

Quad bike safaris

Quad biking (1 hour) 49 USD

Quad biking (2 hours) 79 USD

Quad biking (3 hours) 99 USD

Quad biking (4 hours) 119 USD

Quad biking (3 ½ hours, twilight with meal) 89 USD

Horse back safaris

Horse riding - 1 hour 40 USD

Horse riding - 1.5 hours	50 USD
1.5 hours – Sunset	60 USD
Horse riding - 2 hours	60 USD
Horse riding - 3 hours	80 USD
Mountain bikes ½ day freedom rental	15 USD
2-4 hour guided tour to Bugembe viewpoint	45 USD
4 hour guided tour of Mabira Forest	60 USD
Nile kayaking	
Tandem kayaking	160 USD
Kayak school - Half day introduction	95 USD
Kayak school - Full day introduction	125 USD

At Ziwa rhino sanctuary

Rhino trekking	30 USD
Shoebill canoe ride	35 USD
Night walk	35 USD
Nature/birding walk	35 USD
Kalinzu Forest Chimpanzee trek	50 USD

At the gorillas

Please note as you pay for your permit in advance you only need to pay for your transport costs. These are dependent on road conditions. Remember to also budget for a tip if you wish.

Transport to the gorilla trek start point p/p	From 40 USD
Suggested tip for your gorilla guide	10 USD
Golden monkeys entrance	90 USD
Transport to Golden Monkeys	50 USD
Orphanage visit transport	10 USD
Batwa village visit - visiting a tribe in their relocated village, inc. transport, minimum number 3 people	35 USD
Sunset canoe trekking – Lake Mutanda	10 USD
Coffee tour	35 USD

RWANDA

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

TANZANIA

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

Zanzibar Island

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

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

Snorkeling	
• Kendwa from	15 USD

• Tumbutu half day from	25 USD
• Mnemba (inc lunch) from	45 USD
• Prison Island Entry and transport (depending on numbers)	from 25 - 35 USD
• Fishing off the reefs	40 USD
• Deep sea fishing, boat (takes 5 people), half day	from 450 USD
• Turtle Aquarium	20 USD
• Sunset cruise	30 USD
Jozani Forest – to visit the red colobus monkeys	
• From Stone Town (depending on numbers)	from \$30 - \$120
• From North	from \$40 - \$160

MALAWI

• Scuba Diving Lake Malawi – introductory course	45 USD
• Scuba diving – 2 qualified dives	90 USD
• Scuba Diving – night dive	55 USD
• Canoe rental	15 USD
• Pedalo boat	25 USD/hr
• Snorkelling	20 USD
• Boat ride to Island (Min 4 people)	from 10 USD
• 1 hour horse forest ride	35 USD
• 1 hour horse riding including swim/ride	45 USD
• 2 hour horse riding including swim/ride	70 USD
• 3 hour horse riding including swim/ride	90 USD

ZAMBIA

• South Luangwa extra game drive	45 USD
• Walking safari	53 USD

ZIMBABWE

• Lake Kariba Houseboats for two nights	140 USD
• Fishing including park fees, rod, bair, hooks & sinkers	20 USD
• Extension to full day, Matopos National Park	45 USD

Victoria Falls by the Zambezi

• Victoria Falls Entrance	30 USD
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Please note these prices do not include a Zambian visa if you need to cross over. The Zambian day visa is 20 USD.

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

White water rafting packages

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

Horse back safaris

• Horse Rides - Novice, 2 hours	100	USD
• Horse Rides - Experienced – 2.5 hours	100	USD
• Full day horse ride,(experienced riders only)	155	USD
• Village tour (includes return transfers from Victoria Falls, aprox 3 hrs)	60	USD
Bungee Jumping		
• Bungee Jump (111 metres - 3rd highest commercial bungee in the world)	160	USD
• Bridge slide	45	USD
• Tandem bridge slide	70	USD
• Bridge swing	160	USD
• Tandem bridge swing	240	USD
Gorge activities		
• Gorge Swing only (1 jump)	95	USD
• Tandem gorge swing	140	USD
• Single flying fox	45	USD
• Single zip line	70	USD
• Tandem zip line	110	USD
• Canopy Tour	55	USD
• Big Air Combo, 1x bungee, 1x bridge swing, 1x bridge slide	210	USD
• Half day adrenaline - gorge swing, zip line, flying fox	140	USD
• Half day adrenaline/Canopy tour	175	USD
• Raft/ Gorge swing, Combo Half or full day rafting (water level permitting) 1 gorge swing (10 USD park fees for rafting not inclusive)	200	USD
Adventure Pass 1	315	USD
• Any 2 of the following with a sunset cruise		
• Half day rafting Lion Walk		
• Full day rafting 15 minute Helicopter		
• Elephant back safari Canoeing		
• Half day adrenaline		
• (Park fees not included wherre applicable)		
Adventure pass 2	385	USD
• Any 3 of the following activities		
• Half day rafting Lion Walk		
• Full day rafting 15 minute Helicopter		
• Elephant back safari Canoeing		
• Half day adrenaline		
Upper Zambezi Canoeing		
• Zambezi drift - incl. transfers, b'fast, drinks and park fees (7am-2.30 pm)	150	USD
• Wine drift	70	USD
• Half day Canoe Safari including park fees	125	USD
• Full day Canoe Safari including park fees	150	USD
Zambezi River Cruises		
• Sunset/ booze cruise (inc transfer,full bar and snacks)	55	USD
• Dinner/sundowner cruise (inc transfers,full bar,snacks and 3 course dinner)	90	USD
• Zambian day visa (if required)	20	USD
• Devils Pool (incl breakfast)	105	USD
• Devils Pool (incl lunch)	170	USD
• Devils Pool (incl high tea)	145	USD

*subject to availability and season

**visa for Zambia and transfers not included

BOTSWANA

- Chobe National Park - game cruise and guided game drives 820 Pula
- Chobe River cruise 410 Pula
- Chobe National Park - guided game drives 410 Pula
- Okavango Delta guided mokoro safari, one night two days (dep on nos.) 125 - 275 USD
- Okavango Delta guided mokoro safari, two nights three days 145 USD
- Flight over the Delta - max 5 per plane 1 hour 550 USD

NAMIBIA

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

Swakopmund

- Tandem skydive 3000 N\$
- Sandboarding including lunch with beers and sodas - lie down 600 N\$
- Sandboarding - stand up 700 N\$
- Sandboarding - spectator 100 N\$
- Quad biking 2 hours on the dunes 650 N\$
- Open sea fishing 1600 N\$
- Township tour with traditional lunch 550 N\$
- Sea kayaking 800 N\$
- Living desert tour 800 N\$
- Welwichia tour 800 N\$
- Seals and Dolphin Cruise 900 N\$
- Horse riding 1,5 hours sunset tour 970 N\$

- Sossusvlei visit 170 N\$

SOUTH AFRICA

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

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

- Topless Bus Cape Town City Tour from 200 Rand
- Robben Island 360 Rand
- Ferry leaves hourly between 9 and 3. Please speak to your leader about booking ahead of time*
- Cable Car to Table Mountain (return) 293 Rand
- Abseil Table Mountain 1095 Rand
- Paragliding 1300 Rand
- Aquarium 175 Rand
- Township tour 585 Rand
- Cape Malay Cooking Experience 825 Rand
- Cape Point and Peninsula Tour 1100 Rand
- Skydiving 2850 Rand
- Whale watching tour 1200 Rand
- Wine Lands tour 880 Rand
- White Shark Cage Diving - (incl food, transport & drinks) 2200 Rand

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

Further information in regards to optional excursions and spending money

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

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

Updates on the price for all optional excursions are usually available in the update information we send out about two months before departure. Do check on-line for the latest copy of this document as well. Do be aware though that you are covering an enormous amount of territory on this trip and visiting many destinations, and consequently you may well spend a lot. Africa is 'not cheap' particularly when you add in game park entry fees and the cost of adventure sports such as tandem sky diving, white water 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.

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

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

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

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

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

What do I need to bring?

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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 a couple of 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 contact us.

You need to bring:

- Travel documents including passport (plus relevant visas where necessary) 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 visas, optionals, local payment and spending money
- Credit card – preferably Visa

Other items to consider

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

Essential camping equipment

- Sleeping bag and sheet
- Eating utensils, including cutlery, cup, plate/bowl
- Torch and batteries, a head torch being the most useful
- Mosquito repellent (DEET) 50% strength – up to 4 bottles
- Insect repellent spray
- High-factor sunblock cream
- Lip salve/Chap Stick
- Padlock
- Small personal medical kit including: anti-malarials, vitamin tablets, paracetamol, antibiotic powder, Band-Aids, cotton wool, sterile gloves, flu medication for coughs, colds and sinuses, rehydration salts, sports injury cream for sprains, an antihistamine, immodium, eyedrops, treatment for tummy bugs, stings/bites and sunburn. If you wear contact lenses you are advised to carry disposables.

Other items

- Pocketknife
- 1 litre water container (make sure it screws tight)
- Ziploc bags for wet items, rubbish and to keep items dust-free
- Fabric bags for shoes, dirty clothing etc.
- Towel and anti-bacterial soap
- Condoms
- Tissues
- A means of securing your hair back is useful such as a bandana, a scarf, beanies, hair ties and clips as it can be windy driving on the truck
- Cigarette lighter
- Concentrated travel washing liquid or washing powder, clothesline
- Emergency sewing kit
- Tweezers, nail scissors, nail brush

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

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

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

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

Consider bringing

- Binoculars

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

Electrical items

- Mobile phone
Text messaging can be a good way to stay in touch with the outside world. Remember if you are on international roaming the charges will be very high to make and receive phone calls.
If communication is very important to you, sim cards can be purchased very cheaply on the road.
Some clients have their phone unlocked before arriving in Africa whilst coverage is not always good on this tour
- iPod/iPhone or MP3 or Music player including earphones, if you want to listen to your own music
Please note it is also possible to use your iPod or phone as a hard drive to store photos – check the memory before travelling to ensure you have enough space to store all the photos you may wish to take.
- Camera in a protective case and spare memory card(s)
- For SLR cameras we recommend a telephoto of 120 mm (or similar) or an 80-200 mm zoom
- 2 camera batteries, including a new one
- Polarising filter/lens hood for SLRs
- USB cable – to connect to internet cafes or for downloading
- Camcorder

Charging your equipment

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

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

Clothes

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

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

We would encourage you to bring clothes that will wear well, as 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.

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

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

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

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

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

Drive times in 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 something on which you can 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 en route.

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

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

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

Sickness

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

Meals and cooking on the truck

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

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

Specialist diets

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

good supplies of fresh fruit, veggies and salads. Do be aware though how spoilt we are in the Western world with our constant supplies of fruit and veggies, regardless of the season. In reality and more naturally, fruit and vegetable supplies are seasonal and can be difficult to access en route. We will do all we can to ensure supplies where possible.

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

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

Safety and security whilst on safari

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

Personal safety

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

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

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

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

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

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

Truck security

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

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

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

Photography

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

Trading, donating and supporting

You may wish to consider if you want to bring items such as old T-shirts, sunglasses, cheap watches, old

walkmans/discmans and mobiles to trade.

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

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

Problems or issues you may have while on the tour

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

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

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

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

General code of conduct

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

left clean is appreciated.

Keeping in touch

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

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

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

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

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

The migration covers over 3,000 kilometres on the combined stage of the Serengeti and Masai Mara. It is a constant movement of 2.5 million animals and may well be the highlight of your Absolute Safari! (depending on season) Follow the link for our chart which will show you where you are most likely to see the migratory herds each month of the year: www.absoluteafrica.com/The-Migration For information on where you should be able to see which animal, as well as other useful facts, check out the chart on the following page.

What and where?

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

ABSOLUTE AFRICA



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

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

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

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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

8th November 2019