# Gorillas and Game Parks
## 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 Gorillas and Game Parks

| Departs Kampala | Finish Arusha | Price | Local Payment (US$) |
|---|---|---|---|
| 29 Jan 2019 | 10 Feb 2019 | £970 | US$395 |
| 04 Mar 2019 | 16 Mar 2019 | £970 | US$395 |
| 24 Apr 2019 | 06 May 2019 | £970 | US$395 |
| 01 Jun 2019 | 13 Jun 2019 | £970 | US$395 |
| 02 Jul 2019 | 14 Jul 2019 | £970 | US$395 |
| 09 Aug 2019 | 21 Aug 2019 | £970 | US$395 |
| 13 Sep 2019 | 26 Sep 2019 | £970 | US$395 |
| 04 Oct 2019 | 17 Oct 2019 | £970 | US$395 |
| 30 Oct 2019 | 12 Nov 2019 | £970 | US$395 |
| 18 Dec 2019 | 31 Dec 2019 | £970 | US$395 |

**Special Departure Details:**
Please note that from 13th September 2019 the tour will be 14 days and the start and end dates listed reflect this. We will have a free day in Kigali..

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

**Highlights:** Chimpanzee trekking • Lake Victoria • Chimpanzee trekking • Royal Mpambira drum makers • Queen Elizabeth National Park with a game cruise on Kazinga Channel • Genocide Memorial and Museum • Mountain gorilla trek • Golden monkey trek • Hike to Dian Fossey's grave • Orphanage visit • Batwa (Pygmy) village visit • Grumeti Reserve • Serengeti National Park • Ngorongoro Crater • Maasai boma visit.

**Safari structure:** The Gorillas and Game Parks Safari is a component of our main program of safaris. It allows you to visit the mountain gorillas as well Tanzania's magnificent game parks where we spend several

days on safari in the the Serengeti and the Ngorongoro Crater. We also spend a night in the wilds of Queen Elizabeth National Park in Uganda. Along the way you will meet travellers who may be doing longer or shorter components of this program.

We finish in the safari capital of Tanzania, Arusha, which is a days shuttle journey from Nairobi, Kenya.

## Index

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


| | |
|---|---|
| Safari departure dates and details | Page 1 |
| Flights | Page 2 |
| Insurance | Page 3 |
| Visa requirements | Page 3 |
| Pre and post safari information | Page 4 |
| Health and immunisation | Page 7 |
| A detailed guide itinerary | Page 9 |
| Gorilla permits | Page 11 |
| Money and budgeting | Page 12 |
| Packing - what to bring, packing advice incl. electrical equipment | Page 17 |
| Life on your big yellow truck (Includes safety and security, trading and donating, general code of conduct, keeping in touch) | Page 19 |
| The migration | Page 23 |
| Wildlife chart | Page 24 |
| Further reading | Page 25 |


## Flights

When arranging your flights we suggest that you arrive by early afternoon on the day before your safari begins. There is an international airport in Entebbe.

For this tour in all likelihood you should look at open jaw or multicity tickets flying into Entebbe and out of Nairobi. Alternatively you might consider Nairobi return flights with an add on flight to Entebbe for the start of the trip.

Please don't make any onward arrangements from Arusha until the day after the safari's finish date.

Shuttle buses are easily arranged between Arusha and Nairobi at the end. They take about 6 hours and leave early morning and at lunchtime from Arusha. Otherwise Kilimanjaro airport is about an hour and half drive from Arusha and you could consider a flight from there. We can arrange the shuttle booking to take you from Arusha to Nairobi or to Kilimanjaro. If travelling to Nairobi on the morning shuttle you will normally arrive mid afternoon and can book flights from 6pm onwards that evening.

Note also clients regularly add on excursions from Arusha at the conclusion of this overland trip including arranging beach stays on Zanzibar Island, Kilimanjaro treks or extending their time for extra game drives the northern circuit game parks to safari in Manyara or Tarangire.

Do let us know if you would like assistance with any of the above Add On arrangements.

Several airlines fly into Entebbe and out of Nairobi including British Airways, Kenya Airways, KLM/Air France, Ethiopian, Virgin and Emirates. Otherwise you could look at a London – Nairobi return flight and add-on a flight to Entebbe. Kenya Airways, Air Uganda and Fly 540 fly this route.

As a broad guideline open jaw flights London – Entebbe…… Nairobi – London vary from £470 in low season to £770 in peak season.

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 flights check whether your flight ticket already includes departure tax (if applicable) for the country you are flying out of and, if not, remember to the keep necessary funds aside*

*in USD to make this payment at the end of your trip.*

## Insurance

Back to Index

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

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

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

*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

Back to Index

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

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

For the Gorillas and Game Parks tour, most passport holders including British, Australian, New Zealand, South African, German, French, Dutch, Canadian and American passport holders should apply to Uganda for a single entry visa ahead of time. This is 50 USD and is reflected in the chart below. You can then purchase a single entry Rwandan visa at the border for 30 USD. **This is payable in USD cash.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

Be aware that visa requirements can change without notice. The information above is given as a guide only. We do ask that you also check your personal current visa requirements with the relevant embassies well in advance before you travel. You are ultimately responsible for your own visa arrangements. For more information on visas, check out www.projectvisa.com or www.visahq.com

# Pre and post safari information

Back to Index

The safari departs from the Red Chilli Hideaway at 7.00am on the day of departure early in the morning. We are on the road early to head to Queen Elizabeth National Park and Kalinzu Forest.

We meet up the afternoon prior to departure at Red Chilli, and you can camp with the truck that night, familiarise yourself with the tents and equipment and meet everyone with whom you will be travelling.

If you feel like a bed the night prior to departure or if arriving earlier we can reserve accommodation for you prior to departure at the Red Chilli Hideaway. Just note that Kampala is some distance from the airport.

## Accommodation Options

**RED CHILLI HIDEAWAY**
Red Chilli is located in a leafy suburb of Kampala and has dorm accommodation as well as en-suite rooms and small cottages. It has a bar and restaurant open 7.30 am to 9.30 pm, satellite TV, free internet and plunge pool. There are cooking facilities in the dorms. It is easy to get into the centre of town where there are cinemas, shopping centres, bars, craft markets, etc. There's also a golf course and a good range of restaurants.

Prices for the Red Chilli Hideaway are:
$12.00 Dorm rooms (per person)
$30.00 Single rooms
$35.00 Standard Twin rooms
$40.00 Standard triple
$50.00 Double room en-suite
$55.00 Triple en-suite room

Airport transfers can be arranged to Red Chilli and are approx $28 (100,000 UGSH) for transfers Red Chilli accommodation, transfers and restaurant/bar bill are payable in either Ugandan Shillings or US dollars cash.

**Pre trip options**
Meet us a few days before departure to relax by the White Nile on the White Nile Adventures add-on. There are a range of adventure sports available to enjoy in and by the river including white water rafting, quad biking and horse riding. There is also the opportunity to volunteer in a local school. Speak to us for further information as to how to join us. Check out the add ons at http://www.absoluteafrica.com/summary.lasso?trip_code=GGP13

**Softpower Education**
Or arrive into Uganda early to volunteer with Softpower Education in Jinja. Softpower takes volunteers for a few days or a few weeks, helping in a range of jobs from school refurbishment programs to working with

conservation education.
Speak to us for further information as to how to join us. Details can be seen on our website: http://www.absoluteafrica.com/summary.lasso?trip_code=SPU01

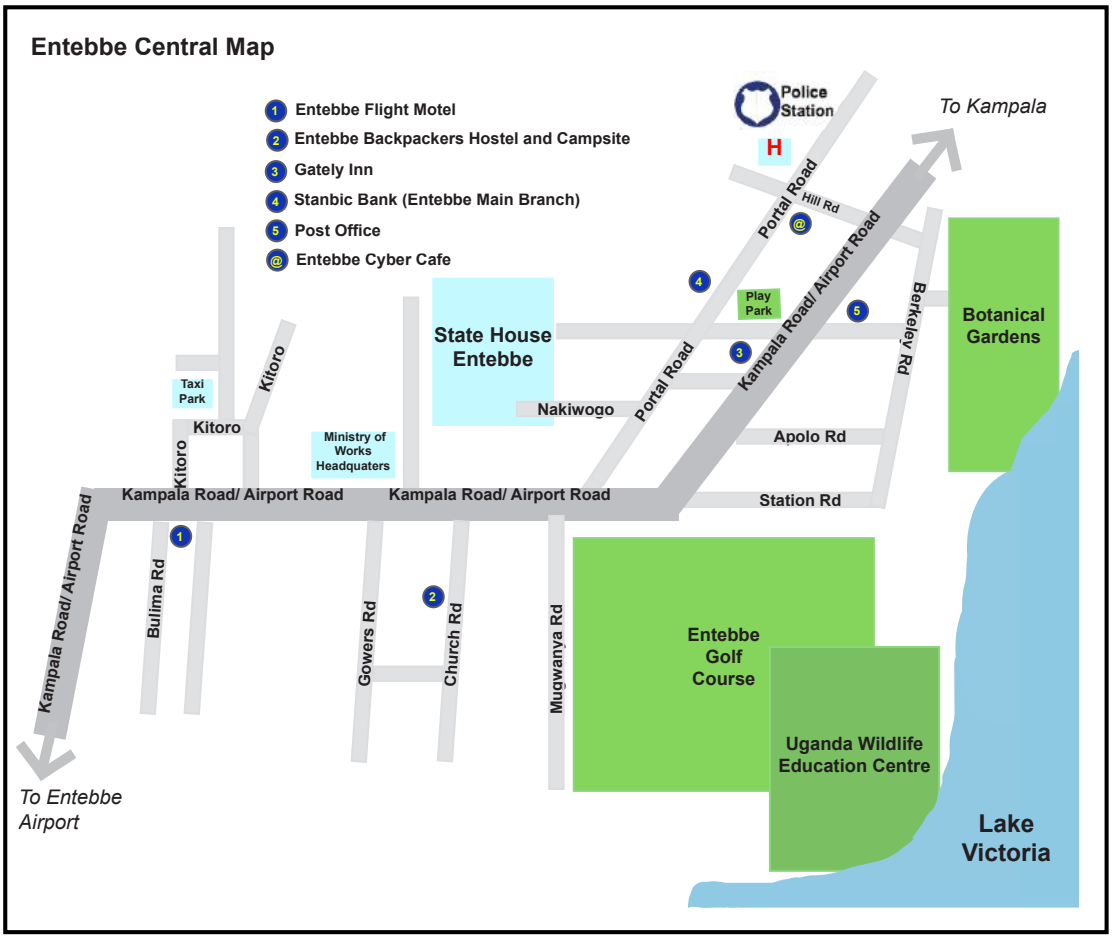
**Murchison Falls Safari**
A 3 day pre-tour option, where you head out early to Murchison Falls National Park where you can go on game drives around the Nile Delta area of the Park and take an afternoon boat cruise on the Nile to the base of the Falls. Price: From 320 USD per person. Contact the office for more details.

## Departing Kampala

On the departure date we will leave from Red Chilli Hideaway at 7.00am, on the road heading southwest to Queen Elizabeth National Park.

The crew will organise a meeting on the afternoon prior to 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 as well. The crew will also collect the local payment, organise rosters and tent partners, show you how to put up your tent, and answer any questions you may have. There will probably be many aspects of going on an overland camping safari in Africa that will be very new for you, so do listen carefully.

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




## Important pre-safari details

Upon booking this overland trip a form is sent to you on which you can advise us of all your booking requirements in Kampala. 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.

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

**Arriving in Entebbe – Entebbe International Airport, Uganda**
At the airport the signs are in English and there is also a bank open for international arrivals.

You should change up enough money into Ugandan shillings for what you need until you meet the truck or can next get to a bank. Do remember you need to pay for any meals you will have before the trip starts, as well as your accommodation and transfers prior to departure.

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 1,500 - 2,000 UGSH. It is wise to have a small amount of change readily available

*NB: For rough budgeting/banking purposes, in Uganda the exchange rate is currently USD 1 = 3,715 Ugandan shillings (USH) (January 2019).*

**Travelling into Entebbe:** The airport is situated 5 km from Entebbe and you are advised to use a taxi transfer. 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, do let us know using the previously mentioned form.

## The end of your safari

The Gorillas and Game Parks Safari finishes in Arusha, the safari capital of Tanzania, early morning on the day after the last day. You will spend your final night camping with the group in Arusha, which is included in the price.

We can arrange transfers through to Nairobi or Kilimanjaro or Arusha airport as you need. You can also arrange an additional night's accommodation in Arusha where there are many accommodation options.

Please remember to leave yourself a full day to travel to Nairobi if flying from Nairobi Jomo Kenyatta airport.

**Arusha Backpackers**
The Arusha Backpackers provides friendly accommodation with the option of full/half board. Facilities facilities include a bar, restaurant and internet access.

Prices for the Arusha Backpackers are:
Dorm room from $10 USD
Single room from $12 USD
Double room: from $22 USD

This can be booked direct with the Backpackers online at http://www.arushabackpackers.co.tz/.

**Impala Shuttle**
A shuttle from Arusha to Nairobi can be arranged for £25 payable in advance as well as any accommodation you need in Nairobi before your flights out.

## Other options to consider with your overland safari

**Heading further afield**
**Climb Kilimanjaro**
Kilimanjaro is just an hours drive from Arusha, and a short flight or shuttle journey from Nairobi. We offer a variety of Kilimanjaro Treks to trek to the 'roof of Africa', Kilimanjaro, along the most popular and the more obscure routes using experienced local guides. Day trips are also available for hiking in the national park and to visit a local Chagga village. For further details contact us or visit:
http://www.absoluteafrica.com/Climb-Kilimanjaro-with-Absolute-Africa

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

**Beach Stays on the Kenyan Coast**
Arrive a few days early to unwind on the white beaches of the Kenyan coast. Prices from U$18pppn for stays in simple beach tree huts. Please contact us for further details.

**Beach Stays on Zanzibar Island**

Rather than travel back to Nairobi on the last day of the trip, we can book a flight onto Zanzibar so you can head to the beach after leaving the game parks.
From there we can also arrange for a stay in traditional Stone Town, and on the sunbleached beaches of Zanzibar. For further details contact our office and feel free to visit http://www.absoluteafrica.com/summary.lasso?trip_code=ZI01

**Extend your time in the game parks**
We can arrange extra safaris in Tarangire and Manyara at the end of the Gorillas and Game Parks safari depending on your timeframe. Accommodation style can be camping or lodges of different grades. Talk to us as to your requirements.

# Health and immunisation

Back to Index

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

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

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

You may also like to check out the following websites:
www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk
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

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/

In Australia and New Zealand, Travellers Medical and Vaccination Centre also have a Health Travel Line.

The Travel Health Line is 1902 261 560. There is a per minute charge on this line.

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

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

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

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

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

The choices usually suggested are:
Larium, taken x1 a week
Doxycycline, taken x1 a day
Malarone, taken x1 a day

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

As well as your anti-malarials, you will need to bring a number of other medical items in a simple Personal Medical Kit. Medical kits can usually be bought at travel clinics. Alternatively lists as to the types of items you are advised to carry can be found in the 'What do I need to bring?' section on page 16.

## General information on avoiding malaria

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

- Cover exposed skin thoroughly in insect repellent, such as DEET, from dusk to dawn, and reapply it regularly. When applying with sunblock, put it on top of the sunblock.
- Ensure you carry enough DEET with you to Africa. It is not easy to get hold of mosquito repellent once on the road.
- Cover up and the beginning and end of the day including wearing long-sleeved and long-legged trousers 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.
- Treat clothing with permethrin.

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

**Other medical issues**

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

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

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

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

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

## The Gorillas and Game Parks Itinerary

Back to Index

### Day 1: Kampala to Kalinzu, Uganda

Today we leave Kampala, the capital of Uganda, to head west into lush countryside. We stop off at a local drum and craft market on the way. At the Equator stop there is time for a photo shoot.

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

Distance: 355 kms
Est. Drive Time: 8 hours
Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Dinner

### Day 2: Kalinzu to Queen Elizabeth National Park

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

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

Distance: 40kms
Est. Drive Time: 1 hour
Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Dinner
Included wildlife activities: Game cruise on the Kazinga Channel, Queen Elizabeth National Park. Slow transit afternoon drive, Queen Elizabeth National Park

*Optional Excursion:* Chimpanzee trek in Kalinzu Forest

### Day 3: Queen Elizabeth National Park to Kisoro

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

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

Distance: 268 kms

Est. Drive Time: 8.5 – 9 hours
Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Dinner
Included wildlife activity: Morning game drive, Queen Elizabeth National Park

**Days 4 – 5 : Kisoro**
We are now in the land of the critically endangered mountain gorilla, and on arrival we have an orientation meeting as to the activities available here and particularly a pre-trek meeting for the gorilla trek.

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

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

Our main highlight is the gorilla trek. There are several other excursions on offer here though apart from the trek. For another view of the gorilla forest, head out to trek a troop of golden monkeys in the lower reaches of the forest. The golden monkey is a sub species of the blue monkey and is named for its vibrant colouring. 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 kms
Est. Drive Time: 0 hours
Meals: X2 Breakfasts, X2 Dinners

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

*NB: For those wishing to visit Dian Fossey's grave you travel late on day 5 to stay in a backpackers closer to the Rwandan gorilla park. The Dian Fossey trek then starts early day 6 of the tour. Please also let us know well ahead of time if you wish to gorilla trek in Rwanda, as distinct from Uganda.*

**Day 6: Kisoro to Musanze, Rwanda**
Today we leave the beautiful scenery of Uganda and head into Rwanda, the "land of a thousand hills". Rolling pastures and thickets of trees predominate over deep valleys and steep slopes as we drive to our first camp. The camp endeavours to establish a very simple cultural centre where you can get involved in traditional basket weaving and banana beer making.

Those wishing to head out on the steep trek to see 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 Reseach Centre. Dian is world famous for her research work and passionate commitment to the mountain gorillas' survival.

Otherwise there is time this afternoon to learn how to make banana beer and do basket weaving back at camp.

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

Distance: 51 kms
Est. Drive Time: 3 hours (depending on the border)
Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Dinner

*Optional excursions:* Trek to Dian Fossey's gravesite, Banana beer making, Basket weaving.

**Day 7: Musanze to Kigali**
Rwanda is a country with a quite recent turbulent history culminating in the 1994 genocide during which ethnic differences between Hutu and Tutsis exploded in an unparalleled level of hatred and bloody violence. We visit the Genocide Memorial in the capital Kigali this afternoon. This memorial is a sobering

commemoration of the atrocities of 1994.

We spend the night in the capital which is a very European style city.

Distance: 115 kms
Est. Drive Time: 3 hours
Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Dinner

*Optional excursion:* Genocide Memorial and Museum

### Day 8: Kigali to Nyakanazi, Tanzania

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

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

Distance: 260 kms
Est. Drive Time: +/- 10.5 hours (depending on the border)
Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Dinner

### Day 9: Nyakanazi to Mwanza

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

Distance: 275 kms
Est. Drive Time: 9 hours
Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Dinner

### Day 10: Mwanza to Bunda, Tanzania

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

Distance: 250 kms
Est. Drive Time: 7 hours
Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Dinner

*Optional excursion:* Hill walk

### Day 11 : Bunda to Ngiri, Serengeti

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

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

Distance to Ikoma Gate, Serengeti: 156 kms
Est. Drive Time: 5 hours to Ikoma Gate incl. slow transit through Grumeti. Afternoon game drives Serengeti National Park
Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Dinner
Included wildlife activity: Afternoon game drive, Serengeti National Park

### Day 12 : Ngiri, Serengeti, to Ngorongoro Crater, Simba Camp

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

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

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

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

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

Distance: 161 kms
Est. Drive Time: 5 hours
Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Dinner
Included wildlife activities: Morning game drive, Serengeti. Afternoon slow transit drive, Ngorongoro Conservation Area

*Optional excursions:* Balloon safari, visit to a Maasai Boma.

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

### Day 13: Ngorongoro Crater to Arusha

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

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

We stop at traditional markets on the way to check out carving work, spears and beadwork.

Tonight we enjoy a group barbecue to celebrate all we have seen over the last fortnight, before our final camp together.

Distance: 195 kms
Est. Drive Time: 3 - 4 hours
Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Dinner
Included wildlife activity: Morning game drives, Ngorongoro Crater

Note: Transfers can be organized to Nairobi, or Arusha and Kilimanjaro airports the following morning. Please let us know what you need before departure and we will make the arrangements for you.

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

# Other Information

Back to Index

## Gorilla trekking

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

# Money and budgeting

Back to Index

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

*Before you go…*

1. Your price
2. Your airfare
3. Immunisation and anti-malarials
4. Gorilla permit
5. Insurance
6. Equipment

*Step off the plane in Africa with…*

7. Spending Money - This is very individual and often depends on how much you drink, shop and wish to upgrade. A suggested budget would be 250 - 300 USD.
8. Local payment – 395 USD.
9. Optional excursions – A traveller who wishes to do most optionals on the trip will spend an average of between 150 - 300 USD (Please see page 14 for the current options available).
10. Visas: 100 - 200 USD depending on nationality
    Purchasing visas in Africa in US dollars for the above passports is currently cheaper than buying ahead of time.
11. Pre and Post safari costs

*Please note: You need to carry money with you out to Africa to cover Items 7 to 11 (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 700 - 900 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. This assumes you are also carrying some sterling or euro cash and leaving some to access by visa card to use for local currency for spending money as well.

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

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

**Pounds Sterling and Euro cash**

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

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

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

Please note also that Scottish pound notes are not accepted.

When you arrive in Entebbe, you should change up enough money into Ugandan shillings to cover all your personal needs, such as accommodation, transfers and meals before you meet the truck.

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

**ATM access and Paying by Card**
You will have limited access to ATMs or to use of a credit card on the road.

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.

**Other things to note in regards to organising your money for Africa**
It is not often possible to obtain many of the relevant African currencies prior to going, and where it is possible the rate is usually poor.

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

For your information the currencies you will meet are:

| | |
|---|---|
| Uganda | Ugandan shillings |
| Rwanda | Rwandan francs |
| Tanzania | Tanzanian shillings |

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

This trip is structured so that many of your costs are 'pay as you go'. 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 and some optionals are quite seasonal, such as specific game parks, different clients like to do different options and 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 FOUR OF AFRICA'S BIG GAME PARKS AS WELL AS OTHER WILDLIFE RESERVES AND HIGHLIGHTS Incl.

- Queen Elizabeth National Park
- The Grumeti Game Reserve
- Serengeti National Park
- Ngorongoro Crater
- Lake Victora
- A game cruise on the Kazinaga Channel

WE ALSO INCLUDE

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

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

**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
- Other incidentals including for tips, internet use, upgrades from camping and the occasional cheap excursion such as local walks
- Visas
- Extra equipment including sleeping bag, torch and medical kit
- Personal travel insurance
- Vaccinations and anti malarials as required

CAMPING, BREAKFAST & DINNER WHILST TRAVELLING ON THE TRUCK, ie:
- Breakfast (x13) and dinner (x13) including local and the final pre-prepared BBQ.
- 11 nights camping and 2 nights dorm accommodation whilst in Rwanda.

At lunchtime we encourage you to get out independently to mix with the local community, shop in markets or try a local cafe. This allows you to do your own thing for lunch. In East Africa you will find that, in many villages when we stop for lunch, the locals will bring lunch to you – samosas, nuts, fruit and hard boiled eggs – all brought to the side of the truck by street vendors and all sold without you having to leave your seat! Or try meat or chicken kebabs or a local favourite, the chip omelette. Drinks are cold and plentiful.

## Personal spending money

This amount is individual and variations in budgets depend largely on how much you spend on souvenirs and drink, as well as on lunch and snacks. You may also need to spend on personal costs such as e-mail, toiletries, etc. It is a regularly updated average that has been provided by the crew and recent clients. Some weeks you will spend more and other weeks less. The current recommendation to carry as personal spending money for this safari is 250 - 300 USD. Allow an extra 20 USD per week approximately if you think you might want to occasionally upgrade your accommodation to stay in chalets, which are available at some campsites.

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Optional activities

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

Please contact us if you would like further information about any of these activities or excursions. Many

of the optionals are payable in Africa in USD (cash) or local currencies. (Prices guide only as at January 2019).

**UGANDA**

| | |
|---|---|
| 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/vehicle |
| Orphanage visit | 10 USD |
| Batwa village visit - visiting a tribe in their relocated village, inc. transport, minimum number 3 people | 35 USD |
| Sunset canoe trekking – Lake Mutanda | 10 USD |
| Coffee tour | 35 USD |

**RWANDA**

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

**TANZANIA**

| | |
|---|---|
| • Maasai village visit | 10 USD |

**Further information about optional excursions and spending money**

Paying for excursions in Africa allows you to decide what you wish to do as you travel. Bear in mind that some activities and 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.

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. Much of what you see though will afford you priceless memories and allow you to be actively involved to the limit. And remember that the money you spend also enables much- needed cash to go to local people and wildlife conservation.

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

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

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

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

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

# What do I need to bring?

Back to Index

We ask that you carry your possessions in one large backpack, travel bag or soft suitcase (65 to 85 litre maximum). Day to day necessities can also be kept in an additional day bag. You should carry your valuables in a flat money belt that you wear against your skin.

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

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

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

## You need to bring:

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

**Other items to consider**

- Student/YHA card
- International driver's license
- 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 – 1 bottle
- Insect repellent spray
- High-factor sunblock cream
- Lip salve/Chap Stick
- Padlock
- Small personal medical kit including: anti-malarials, vitamin tablets, paracetamol, antibiotic powder, Band-Aids, cotton wool, sterile gloves, flu medication for coughs, colds and sinuses, rehydration salts, sports injury cream for sprains, an antihistamine, Imodium, eye drops, 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)
- Plastic bags for wet items, rubbish and to keep items dust-free
- Towel and antibacterial soap
- Condoms
- Tissues
- A means of securing your hair back is useful such as a bandana, a scarf, beanies, hair ties and clips as it can be windy day to day driving on the truck
- Cigarette lighter
- Concentrated travel washing liquid or washing powder, clothesline
- Emergency sewing kit
- Tweezers, nail scissors, nail brush

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. We recommend for this trip you carry all you need for your time away.

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

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

**Consider bringing:**

- Binoculars
- Pillow
- Wet Ones
- 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/MP3 player if you want to listen to your own music
  *Please note it is also possible to use your iPod as a hard drive to store photos – check the memory before traveling 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
  *If bringing film, clients usually get through between 5 - 6 rolls on this safari. High-speed film is usually necessary for photographing wildlife in early morning or late afternoon. It is cheapest to purchase all film prior to arrival in Africa.*
- 2 camera batteries, including a new one
- Polarising filter/lens hood for SLRs
- USB cable – to connect to internet cafes or for downloading
- Camcorder

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

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

### Clothes

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

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

We would encourage you to bring clothes that will wear well, as traveling in Africa is very hard on clothes. Conditions are rough and belongings do get dusty and can get damaged. Soft bush colours are most suitable. Being able to layer clothing that can be removed easily as the day heats up is an advantage. This also helps to keep valuables inconspicuous. Clothes with zip and velcro pockets are sensible.

Due to the bumpy road conditions women are advised to bring at least one sports bra. Women should dress 'modestly', respecting the sensibilities and attitudes of the people and countries they are visiting. This is of particular importance for your stay on Zanzibar.

*Be aware that camouflage clothing should be avoided.*

## Life on your Big Yellow Truck

Back to Index

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

On safari do follow all instructions given by your safari leader as to how to use equipment, move around on, enter and exit the truck as well as how to maintain all supplies. 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 daily basis you are encouraged to look out for each other and be considerate of everyone else's needs and wishes. Your group will be made up of individuals all wanting to get the most out of their trip and 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. Where this is not the case it is advisable to buy your own bottled water, which is readily available and most campsites now sell sealed bottled mineral water. When buying your water do check that the bottles are sealed.

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

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

## Schedules and itineraries

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

The trips are made up of components and quite often during the safari you will probably meet clients doing shorter and longer sections of your trip depending on the booking patterns for the months you are traveling. This works well to allow people to come and go for sections including family and friends.

**Camping**

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

We also supply high-density foam roll mats. Some clients prefer to bring their own roll mat – typically a self-inflating mat - you may like to consider this seeing as it will be 'bed' for the duration!

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

It is a participation trip and part of your everyday routine will be to put up your own tent and be involved in all the daily chores including cooking and cleaning. For reasons of personal hygiene, we ask you to supply your own cup, plate and cutlery.

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 are, in the main, 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.

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 or a bbq buffet. We also can often contribute towards a  final meal together in Arusha.

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

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

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

## Safety and security whilst on safari

Travelling as a group does provide you with an added level of security. Perhaps the two most important factors to always bear in mind when traveling 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 eg. cameras, jewellery and money. Remember even cheap jewellery can look expensive! Layer your clothing to keep valuables inconspicuous and take clothes preferably with zip and velcro pockets.

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

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

Whilst in Entebbe and/or Kampala before the start of your safari, all valuables should be kept on your body when not locked away. At Entebbe Flight Motel there is an office safe which is available to use. Once you join the truck, valuables can be locked safely away in a safety deposit box, which is kept hidden within the vehicle.

Confidence tricksters are particularly common. Be wary of anyone with a hard luck story, asking for

assistance, soliciting sponsorship (particularly educational) or people offering a deal to change money at favourable rates.

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

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

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

**Language**

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

## 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

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

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

Day to day, be sensitive and aware of how you and your group are being perceived by those around you. Be alert to where you are, sensitive when taking photos, aware of how much noise we are making, careful of how you are dressed.

Everyone wants to have the best time possible in Africa and there are plenty of chances to have a trip of a lifetime. Do please note that excessive noise, obscenities and inappropriate behaviour cannot be tolerated. It can embarrass other members of the group and seriously upset those around us particularly in campsites and restaurants. Be responsive and sensitive to the world around you.

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Keeping in touch

It can be quite difficult and also expensive to stay in touch whilst you are traveling in Africa. Please let your family know that this will be the case, particularly if you are usually in touch on a regular basis. 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 Kampala, Ruhengeri and Arusha. Please note internet speed is quite often very slow so be warned!

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

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

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

# The Migration

Back to Index

**The Great migration**

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

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

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

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

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



Back to Index

# Reading List

Back to Index

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

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

Lonely Planet 2000

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

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

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

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

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

**21st January 2019**