

49 Day Beach, Bush & Gorillas (Johannesburg to Nairobi)

This trip begins in Johannesburg, South Africa and travels north through South Africa, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Malawi, Tanzania and Uganda before ending in Nairobi, Kenya.

This trip departs from Johannesburg early on Sunday morning. Should you wish to explore Johannesburg, we can assist you, in booking your activities as well as accommodation. However, costs due to earlier arrival, will be for your own account.

Accommodation style:	Camping
Length of trip:	49 Days
Starts in:	Johannesburg, South Africa
Finishes in:	Nairobi, Kenya
Pre-departure Meeting:	Held at the Departure Point at 17h00, the day before your departure.
Departure point:	Mufasa Backpackers, 21 Fourth Road, Cloverdene, Benoni
Check-In Time:	07h00
Departure Time:	07h30
Breakfasts included:	40
Lunches included:	38
Dinners included:	39
Brunches included:	1
Countries visited:	South Africa, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Zambia, Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda

PLEASE NOTE:

- This itinerary should be used as a guide only and may vary from day to day depending on road & weather conditions, political situations and group decisions.
- All prices & Local Payments are subject to change.
- Due to Tourism Laws in some of the countries we visit, there may be a truck and crew change during the trip. Your arrival transfer and pre-trip accommodation in a dorm bed is included in your trip price. Should you choose not to make use of these, or in the event that we were not updated with your arrival details, no refund will be paid for services not used.
- Please ensure you've received a copy of our pre departure information document with information on what to expect on this overland safari.
- For booking purposes please notify our office as soon as possible should you choose not to trek the Mountain Gorillas.

Tie together east and south in this spectacular forty-nine day adventure safari! This trip has the best beaches, the wildlife of the African Bushveld and the opportunity to see the awesome mountain gorilla. Highlights through South Africa, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Botswana, and Zambia to the wild east Africa

of Malawi, Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda. Jump on board for the experience of a lifetime!

INCLUDED HIGHLIGHTS

Kruger National Park, Night Game Drive, Mozambique Beaches, Great Zimbabwe Ruins, Matobo National Park, Hwange National Park, Entrance to Victoria Falls, Chobe National Park & Overnight Excursion, South Luangwa National Park, Lake Malawi, Zanzibar Ferry, Dar Es Salaam, Masai Cultural Museum, Masai Mara National Reserve, Great Rift Valley, Kampala, Lake Bunyoyini, Lake Nakuru National Park, Lake Naivasha.

SOUTH AFRICA

With nine different provinces, 11 official languages and 3 capital cities, South Africa will most definitely make you stop in your tracks and go – WOW.

DAY 1: Johannesburg to Nkambeni Camp (Lunch / Dinner)

Leaving Johannesburg we head towards the Lowveld and our camp situated in the famous Kruger National Park. On our way we pass through the southern section of the picturesque Panorama Route – famous for its breathtaking vistas. Our camp is a short drive from the Kruger Park and has some interesting local residents that include hippo, giraffe, zebra and impala.

Included: Night Game Drive

DAY 2: Southern Kruger Region (Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner)

Today we explore the amazing Kruger National Park. Covering 19 485 km² - 60 km wide and over 350 km long, this conservation area has more than 146 mammals, 500 bird, 114 reptile, 33 amphibian & 49 fish species. 23 000 different types of plants have been recorded. We spend the day game driving around the park looking for a few of these wonderful African species. This evening we camp south of the park.

Included Activity: Game drives through Kruger National Park in our own vehicle.

DAY 3: Southern Kruger Region to Inhambane Area (Mozambique) (Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner)

We head off early and after crossing the border, we leave South Africa and head to the warm waters of the Mozambique coastline. Well known as an Ivory and slave trade centre in the colonial years, Inhambane was the centre of trade for the then Portuguese East Africa. Today Maputo is the capital of Mozambique and the centre of its trade industry. We travel along the scenic back route bypassing the capital to Praia de Zavora Bay, one of the finest stretches of coastline in the Inhambane region where we set up our camp and enjoy the fantastic views and scenery.

DAY 4: Inhambane (Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner)

Today is spent at leisure enjoying the fantastic sea side activities on offer. These included swimming, snorkelling, fishing and scuba diving the nearby reefs. Alternatively spend the day lazing on the long sandy beach enjoying the lulling sounds of the waves as they lap the shoreline.

Scuba diving in Inhambane is amongst the best in the world with reefs close to every beach including the famous Manta Reef and Gallaria. Sightings include Manta Rays, Whale Sharks, Turtles and a host of other marine life are the norm. Our campsite at Zavora Lodge is home to a well kitted dive centre offering various dive opportunities that can be booked with them on arrival at the camp. For those wishing to see the spectacular marine life that are not able to dive, snorkelling is also excellent.

DAY 5: Inhambane to Morrungulo (Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner)

Today we take a leisurely drive up the coast to the picturesque Morrungulo resort. Situated in among a coconut palm plantation, this camp offers a truly tropical island feel – just watch out for the falling coconuts! Try your hand at deep-sea fishing, or simply enjoy a relaxing walk along this stretch of beach.

DAYS 6 & 7: Morrungulu to Vilanculous (Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner)

Vilanculous is the stepping stone to the 3 main islands of the Bazaruto Archipelago. We spend 2 nights here to give those who wish, the opportunity to take a boat charter out to the smaller island of Magaruque on day 7. Other activities include Dhow trips, sunset cruises, horse riding, big game fishing, whale watching (seasonal) and more.

DAY 8: Vilanculous to Bandula (Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner)

Continuing northward we say farewell to the tropical coastline and head inland to Bandula. Today's drive takes us through the more rural parts of Mozambique and affords the opportunity to see local Mozambican villages and farmsteads. Arriving in the late afternoon, we set up camp on the banks of the Chicamba Dam.

ZIMBABWE

This landlocked country is situated in the southern part of Africa, between the mighty Zambezi and Limpopo Rivers. The word Zimbabwe is believed to have two meanings, 1) it is believed the word Zimbabwe is derived from dzimba-dza-mabwe, which means "large house of stone" in the Shona (Karanga Dialect) language. 2) It is also believed to be derived from the word dzimba-hwe which means venerated houses in the Zezuru dialect of Shona.

DAY 9: Bandula to Masvingo (Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner)

Today we enter Zimbabwe - a beautiful country, rich in soul, culture and tradition. We make our way to the town of Masvingo - on the outskirts of the Great Zimbabwe Ruins. This was the greatest medieval city in sub-Saharan Africa, built by an ancient highly skilled civilization. The name Zimbabwe is derived from this ancient city and means "great stone houses" in Shona. The most notable artefacts found at the ruins were the 8 Statues of stone birds carved out of soapstone. Wander around these amazing ruins, before setting up camp at the foot of the hills.

Included Activity: Great Zimbabwe Ruins

DAY 10: Masvingo to Bulawayo (Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner)

Today we visit Matobo National Park, one of the last strongholds of both the black and the white rhino. This park is also well known for its high concentration of the elusive leopard and majestic black eagle.

Rock paintings are to be found too, providing evidence of the ancient San inhabitants of this area. Cecil John Rhodes (after whom Rhodesia was named) asked to be buried at the top of one of the sacred hills, (although there is some controversy over whether he will stay!) We spend the day exploring this unique geological, ecological and historic area.

Included: Matobo National Park

DAY 11: Bulawayo to Hwange National Park (Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner)

We continue north-west to Zimbabwe's oldest and largest reserve – the Hwange National Park. Hwange is well known for its abundance and variety of wildlife species including thousands of elephant, and rare antelope species such as the Sable and Roan Antelope. We enjoy a game drive (either late afternoon or early morning) to explore the wilderness in search of these, and the other resident wildlife species.

DAY 12: Hwange National Park (Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner)

Today we have a full day in the Hwange area, and here we partake in a game drive through Hwange National Park, in the hope that we spot as many wild animals as possible.

Included Activities: Game drive

DAY 13: Hwange National Park to Victoria Falls (Breakfast / Lunch)

Leaving Hwange, we head to Victoria Falls. Named after the famous World Heritage site and Water Falls, the town of Victoria Falls is situated on the Zambezi River and surrounded by the Victoria Falls National Park. Our campsite is conveniently situated in the centre of town, and within walking distance of the adventure booking agents, restaurants and shops. A 20 minute walk down the main road takes you to the entry point to view the falls, which are situated between Zimbabwe and Zambia. Victoria Falls, or Mosi-oa-Tunya (the Smoke that Thunders), was named by David Livingstone on his explorations, and is one of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World. At 1700 m wide and around 100 m high, this is the world's largest sheet of falling water and a memorable sight on any African Safari! After our adventure activities briefing (see price guide at the end of this document for options), the afternoon is spent relaxing at the campsite's swimming pool, viewing the Victoria Falls, or exploring the many sights and delights of this town!

Included: Entrance to Victoria Falls

DAYS 14 & 15: Victoria Falls (Breakfast on both days)

The next 2 days are spent relaxing or participating in a myriad of Optional Excursions. Some of our fellow passengers will leave us in Vic Falls, to be replaced by new passengers joining us for the next leg of our trek.

Optional Activities: Elephant back safaris, horseback safaris, walking with lions, a visit to the crocodile ranch, boat cruises and golf at The Elephant Hills Resort. Adrenalin junkies can bungee from the Victoria Falls Bridge connecting Zimbabwe and Zambia or abseil down the Batoka Gorge - neither activity is for the faint hearted! All year round, flights in fixed wing, micro light and ultra light aircraft or helicopters provide an aerial perspective over this magnificent World Heritage Site. White water rafting on the Zambezi is world class. Beside the excitement of the Grade 5 rapids, there are the "floats," where there is time to admire the scenic cliffs and the occasional wildlife on the riverbanks.

BOTSWANA

The size of this successful country can be compared to countries such as Kenya or France, and fairly smaller than Texas. Botswana is a landlocked country with borders such as South Africa, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe which can all be crossed overland. For such a small country it boasts an array of spectacular game viewing opportunities such as, hundreds of elephants splashing in the Chobe River and the Okavango Delta and its maze of lagoons.

DAY 16: Victoria Falls to Chobe National Park, Botswana (Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner)

We head out from Victoria Falls to the border crossing to Botswana. Once we've completed the border formalities, we continue to the town of Kasane, situated on the banks of the Chobe River. The Chobe River forms a border between Botswana and Namibia and Zambia and is the main water source to the Chobe National Park. After lunch, we have time at leisure to relax. In the afternoon, we leave for our Chobe National Park Overnight Mobile excursion – an overnight experience in the wilds of the Chobe National park. Chobe is one of Botswana's premier game parks, renowned for its large elephant herds. Spend the afternoon in search of wildlife while we game drive to our camp within the park where we spend the evening surrounded by the night-time noises of the local wildlife. Look out for the rare Sable and Roan Antelope on your game drive, with their majestic backward slanting horns, or try keep a count of the Lilac Breasted Roller's that swoop by! After our night in the bush, we head out early to continue our search for wildlife, before packing up the camp and heading back to Kasane.

Included Activity: Chobe National Park Overnight Mobile excursion

DAY 17: Chobe National Park to Livingstone (Zambia) (Brunch / Dinner)

Once returning to the camp at Kasane, we get back on our truck and continue to the town of Livingstone. This afternoon we have the opportunity to view The Falls from the Mosi-oa-Tunya National Park, Zambia or partake in an optional sunset boat cruise on the Zambezi River. Another fantastic photo opportunity!

Optional Activity: Zambezi Sunset boat cruise

DAY 18: Livingstone to Eastern Zambia (Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner)

An early morning start sees us head north through southern Zambia. As we drive, we pass through a few of the villages and towns of Zambia along the way. Prosperous during the copper boom in the 60's, Zambia was able to build infrastructure at the main mining and farming communities. After the fall of the copper industry, the country was left virtually bankrupt and existing infrastructure was left to fall to ruin. Due to foreign investment and a rise in the mining industry, Zambia is today once again starting to prosper. The difference is evident in the cities with the availability of foreign stores, banks and imported cars, while the villages and smaller towns are still to catch up. Our campsite is home to some local wildlife including the largest antelope – Eland.

DAY 19: Eastern Zambia to South Luangwa National Park (Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner)

This breath taking park is situated on the Luangwa River in the Eastern part of Zambia, and it is the southernmost of three national parks in this region. South Luangwa was founded in 1938 as a game reserve, 1972 was the year it was declared as a national park, and today it covers over 9000 kilometres squared. Animals such as Giraffe, buffalo and Elephants can be found in abundance. The Luangwa river is home to many a hippo and croc.

Included Activity: Game drives through South Luangwa National Park in our own vehicle.

DAY 20: South Luangwa to Chipata (Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner)

From Luangwa we head north east on the old 'East Road' to a beautiful little campsite located just 10 km before the Zambia/Malawi border. In the days of old, the route from Cairo to Cape Town passed through Lusaka and it's along this route to Malawi we travel today. While today is mostly spent driving, we do cross the impressive Luangwa River Bridge which is heavily guarded due to its close proximity to the Zimbabwean & Malawian borders. We'll also stop off to purchase some fresh produce and coal from the local sellers along the way.

MALAWI

A variety of attractions can be found in this exquisite country such as, forest, mountains and many a rural village, but there is one major attraction – Lake Malawi. There are many small rustic resorts along this fresh water lake where you can kick back on the sand, and enjoy the perfect sunset over this lake. Malawi will offer you the perfect sub tropical climate, allowing you ample time to soak up the sun and work on that tan. Lilongwe is the largest city in Malawi, as well as the capital city. Malawi plays host to just over 12 million people, with English and Chichewa being the main languages.

Lake Malawi

Most your time in Malawi will be spent enjoying the white beaches and warm waters of Lake Malawi. Lake Malawi is also known as "the lake of stars", offering an abundance of water activities. With the staggering amount of 500 species of fish, this lake makes for an excellent spot for fresh water diving after meeting and greeting all the welcoming locals

DAYS 21 - 23: hipata to Lake Malawi Beaches (Malawi) (Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner)

Leaving Zambia we cross into Malawi, the 'Warm Heart of Africa'. Malawi is a landlocked country with 20% of its total area made up of beautiful Lake Malawi. We camp first at the central Lake, and then in the northern area over the next 3 days.

Spend the days learning the game of bao from the locals, scour the markets for a bargain or simply relax on the pristine beaches. Malawi's temperate climate allows for swimming in the clear blue fresh-water lake all year round. Explore the beautiful shore where you'll happen upon the local fishermen sorting their catch. Traditional fishing techniques are still practiced and to appreciate their boating skills, try to paddle a dugout canoe yourself! At night you'll see the 'fairy' lights of the fishermen out on the lake. The various beachside campsites along Lake Malawi's shores offer many optional Excursions including a variety of water sports, horseback rides and a visit to the local village and school (see pricing guide at the end of this document).

Optional activities vary; however we do recommended that you take part in the village tour. Please that you can bring along pens, pencils, notepads, or dry starch food sorts for the villagers. Please speak to your crew for more information.

TANZANIA

Tanzania's natural environment and geographical features have made it one of the best tourist destinations in Africa. Being the biggest country in east Africa, Tanzania has heaps to offer her visitors, including 13 game reserves and national parks. Tanzania also forms part of the world's largest animal's movements, the great migration. Inland are the vast Serengeti National Park and the animal-packed Ngorongoro Conservation area, and thousands of people every year fulfil their lifetime achievement of climbing to the top of Mount Kilimanjaro, which is the highest mountain in Africa. On the coast, Zanzibar is exotic, intriguing and steeped in the unique Swahili culture.

DAY 24: Lake Malawi to Iringa (Tanzania) (Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner)

After a relaxing 4 days, we leave Malawi, entering Tanzania through the border post at Songwe. Winding our way through the beauty of the Tukuyu tea and banana plantations, we head towards Iringa where we spend the night in the beautiful rustic 'Farmhouse' campsite famous for its Amarula Hot Chocolates and its steamy showers!

DAY 25: Iringa to Dar es Salaam (Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner)

This morning we head off early and make our way to Dar es Salaam. We pass through the Mikumi National Park where it is possible to view a range of wildlife from the roadside, totally impervious to the passing traffic. Today's drive time is extended due to the heavier amount of traffic heading in to the city, but the sights and sounds of Dar's vibrant outer suburbs are sure to keep you entertained. Look out for the colourful shop-fronts with their sometimes humorous 'catch phrases'. On arrival in Dar es Salaam, we make our way to our lovely seaside campsite and prepare for our departure to Zanzibar the next morning.

DAY 26: Dar es Salaam to Zanzibar (Optional) (Breakfast)

A ferry from Dar es Salaam takes us to the "Spice Island," where we have the option to spend the next 3 nights. Zanzibar is steeped in history and was one of the major starting points for most East African explorers in their quest for new lands. New passengers may join us to replace those that'll leave us at the end of our excursion to Zanzibar.

Included Activity: Zanzibar Ferry

Optional Activity: Zanzibar excursion

PLEASE NOTE: Accommodation and Meals are for your own account whilst on Zanzibar, as it is our experience that passengers prefer to explore the island on their own, and in accordance with their own budget. The Trip Leader joins you and can arrange your accommodation, while meals can be enjoyed from a wide selection of restaurants. There are also a wide variety of optional excursions on offer – please see the price guide on the end of this document for more details.

For those not opting to visit the island of Zanzibar, the next 3 days are spent at leisure at the beach campsite in Dar es Salaam. There are various optional excursions available from the camp including diving, snorkelling and fishing trips. The driver and cook remain behind in Dar es Salaam during the excursion.

PLEASE NOTE: New legislation prohibits the taking of photographs during the Zanzibar ferry ride. Spot fines can be issued, if legislation is not obeyed.

DAYS 27 & 28: Zanzibar

History aside, Zanzibar offers a wealth of experiences for the visitor. Today the quiet streets of the old Stone Town still retain their Arabic influence, from the Medina-like shops to the palaces of the Sultans, who founded their vast empires on the spoils of the slave and ivory trade. The island is famous for its spices and an excursion around a spice plantation is always a fascinating experience. Other options include a trip to the beautiful beaches and giant tortoises of Prison Island, a full day scuba dive in Nungwe or a fishing trip in a traditional dhow. Mopeds are available for hire if you'd like to explore the more remote areas of the island. Zanzibar is a seafood lover's paradise. Numerous restaurants offer a great variety of the freshest catch from the ocean - crayfish being a popular speciality. Alternatively, mingle with the locals for dinner at the Forodhani Gardens seafront market, where delicious, inexpensive seafood is on offer.

DAY 29: Zanzibar to Dar es Salaam (Dinner)

Leaving Zanzibar in the afternoon, we return to the mainland and another night in Dar es Salaam. Arrival back to camp is usually in the late afternoon, or early evening.

DAY 30: Dar es Salaam to Arusha (Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner)

From Dar es Salaam we have a long day's drive through vast sisal plantations and African bushveld to Arusha. On the way, we pass The Pare and Usambara Mountain ranges before driving through the town of Moshi. Moshi is the base for Mount Kilimanjaro climbing expeditions and weather permitting; we may even catch a glimpse of this magical mountain's snowy summit - a photo opportunity not to be missed! Tonight we stay at a campsite in Meserani on the outskirts of Arusha, before heading out on our Optional Excursions to the Serengeti and Ngorongoro Crater tomorrow.

DAY 31: Arusha to Karatu (Optional) (Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner)

This morning we visit the Meserani Reptile Park and Masai Cultural Museum. A few minutes' walk from the campsite is a gallery selling the bright and iconic Tinga Tinga paintings. Alternatively the town of Arusha is nearby to explore. After enjoying lunch at our camp against the backdrop of Mount Meru we meet our Tanzanian guides and transfer into locally operated 4WD vehicles. These vehicles have been adapted for safari use and allow excellent viewing and photographic opportunities through the opening roof hatches.

Optional Activity: Serengeti & Ngorongoro Excursion

Please speak to your crew for more information

Leaving our camp we travel via the Masai town of Mtu Wa Mbu (Mosquito River) that lies adjacent to the Lake Manyara National Park and then up the Rift Valley Escarpment to the higher lying village of Karatu. Karatu offers magnificent views over the surrounding hills and has many well established wheat farms that add to the picturesque panoramas. Tonight we spend the evening at a very pleasant campsite in Karatu (campsite has ablution facilities).

DAY 32: Karatu to Ngorongoro Crater and Serengeti National Park (Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner)

This morning we depart early for the Ngorongoro Conservation area and head into the wildlife rich Ngorongoro Crater. The Ngorongoro Crater is the largest unbroken, unflooded caldera in the world. Comprising of open savannahs, acacia forests and both soda and fresh water lakes, the Ngorongoro Crater is truly a miniature 'Garden of Eden'. This World Heritage Site boasts some of the best game viewing in Africa – including the elusive Black Rhino.

After our game drive in the Crater, we head down the Crater rim and past the 'Cradle of Mankind' on our way to the Serengeti National Park. We cross the vast plains as we game drive through the southern and central areas in the park. Tonight we camp (no ablution facilities) in the bushveld surrounded by the sounds of the African wilderness. Without any fences surrounding our campsite we are truly in the midst of nature!

If you choose not to do the optional Serengeti/Ngorongoro Crater you will remain at the campsite. Please contact us for more information.

DAY 33: Serengeti National Park to Arusha (Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner)

In the morning, we head off for another game drive and explore the landscape in search of the resident game. With some luck, we may see some of Africa's 'Big 5'! Following our morning drive, we retrace our journey back across the plains and along the lush Crater rim to our truck at Arusha, where we spend the evening musing over our thrilling wildlife experience.

KENYA

Upon entering this beautiful east African country, you may be greeted with the words of "jambo" (hello) or "hakuna matata" (no problem) by the friendly locals. With a population of nearly 42 million and land area of more than 580 000 sq km Kenya is home to an abundance of animals and colourful tribes people, making it the perfect getaway for a once in a lifetime safari.

DAY 34: Arusha to Nairobi (Kenya) (Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner)

We set off early this morning and make our way to the Tanzania/ Kenyan border and the small border town of Namanga. After completing the border formalities, we continue on our journey to the Capital City Nairobi and our campsite on the outskirts of the city.

DAY 35: Nairobi (Breakfast)

The rest of the day is yours at leisure to enjoy some of the many options available in this bustling city; visit The David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust, where you can view the orphaned baby Elephants at feeding time, or head to the Giraffe Centre in Langata, if you haven't had your fill of game viewing, then Nairobi National Park offers some great day trips or if you haven't quite got all those souvenirs you wanted, take a "Matatu" to the local curio markets close by the campsite. This evening why not try the fair on offer at the famous Carnivores restaurant.

DAY 36: Nairobi to Masai Mara (Lunch / Dinner)

Leaving the hustle and bustle of Nairobi we climb the escarpment to our first stop, a viewpoint overlooking a section of the spectacular Great Rift Valley. Descending into the Rift Valley, we enter Masai land where these habitual pastoralists are often seen tending their cattle from the side of the road. We pass through the town of Narok, and continue our drive possibly getting a glimpse of some wildlife along the way. We arrive at our campsite in the late afternoon.

Included Activity: Masai Mara Game Reserve**DAY 37: Masai Mara** (Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner)

We depart shortly after sunrise on our game drive into the Masai Mara Reserve. The Masai Mara is well known as one of East Africa's best National Reserves and is home to a wide variety of wildlife species. Most famous for the Annual Migration, that consists of the impressive herds of over 1 million wildebeest, zebra and Thomson's gazelle that cross over from the Serengeti National Park in Tanzania; the Masai Mara is most popular between July and October when these vast herds feast on the fresh grazing here.

Following these herbivores are Africa's predators that are often seen at a kill during this period. We game drive through a section of the park in search of the 'Big 5'- elephant, rhino, buffalo, lion & leopard; along with the many other species of animals, reptiles and birds who make call this wilderness home.

After our game drive, we have the option to visit one of the nearby Masai Manyatta's – this is a traditional hamlet where the Masai still live in their traditional way. This evening we sit around the camp fire, and watch the sun set over this "Garden of Eden".

DAY 38: Masai Mara to Eldoret (Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner)

Leaving the Masai Mara early, we head out of Masai Land pass through the scenic tea plantations of Kericho before descending the Rift Valley Plateau, on our way to Eldoret.

UGANDA

The "Pearl of Africa" as it is referred to by its people, is home to some of Africa's major attractions. This country contains four of Africa's seven great lakes, including Lake Victoria which is the second largest body of fresh water in the world. Lake Bunyonyi is one of these spectacular lakes with its mythical landscapes and hidden bays. The source of the Nile at Jinja allows you the opportunity to tame the mighty waters with some of the world's best white water rafting. And to top it all, this breath taking country has the largest population of primates anywhere in Africa.

DAY 39: Eldoret to Kampala (Uganda) (Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner)

This morning, we cross the border into Uganda where we overnight in the capital city, Kampala. Uganda is a small country of striking physical beauty. Its landscapes vary from the fertile green areas around the northern shores of Lake Victoria to the snow capped Ruwenzori Mountains in the west and the semi-desert region in the north. The political instability that has haunted Uganda in the past has actually had the positive effect of leaving the country free of the over commercialism so common in other parts of Africa. The current administration under President Museveni has devoted considerable effort and funds

to return Uganda to its former status as one of Africa's most prosperous and, from a tourist's point of view, one of the most appealing and interesting countries to visit.

DAYS 40 - 43: Kampala to Lake Bunyoni (Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner)

After an early morning departure from Kampala we drive west into the depths of Uganda to our base at the tranquil Lake Bunyoni.

Lake Bunyoni, the deepest Crater Lake in Africa and home to a large and varied number of beautiful birds, is the base from which the optional Gorilla trek takes place. Dependant on where trekking permits are available, we trek in the Magahinga or Bwindi National Parks in Uganda, the Virunga National Park in the Democratic Republic of Congo, or the Ruhengeri National Park in Rwanda. The prices of trekking permits fluctuate and may change without prior notice – currently they are priced from US\$600. There is a local transport & handling fee **from US\$120** per person (this covers the return public transfer and the Wildlife Authority's booking fee). For trekking in the DRC or Rwanda (the trip leader will advise at the pre departure meeting as to where the permits have been secured, and will assist with the online visa application for Rwanda en-route if needed), we will also have to purchase an additional visa to enter either country, as well as renewing our Ugandan visa upon re-entry. We also advise budgeting a little extra for tips for the local guides and rangers. Please budget accordingly as payment for the permit must be made in US\$ cash at the pre departure meeting.

Trekking Procedures: The mountain gorilla (Gorilla Berengei), of which there are still only about 700 remaining, are one of our closest living relatives. A visit to these gentle giants in their natural environment is a unique and wonderful experience - one you'll never forget. The park rangers monitor the gorillas on a daily basis and have a fairly good idea of where they are. However, they are free roaming animals, and their sighting cannot be guaranteed. As the gorillas share much of our DNA, anyone with even the slightest cold or transferable illness will not be permitted to trek. Trekking is also only open to people over 16 years old.

Due to the restrictions on the daily numbers of visitors to these incredible animals, we depart from our base in Bunyoni in small groups over 3-4 days, depending on the group size. We wind our way through arguably some of the most picturesque scenery in Africa en-route to the National Park. Dependant on where permits are available, we may spend a night in either Kisoro or in Rwanda. The following morning, after packing our picnic lunch, we are transferred to a ranger's station where the trek commences. Your rangers will lead you through the cultivated lands and then into the dense rain forest and on to a gorilla family.

Trekking can take anywhere from 45 minutes to 8 hours (not including transfer time) and it can be quite strenuous, so a reasonable level of fitness is required. To ensure the gorillas do not get too used to the presence of humans and because they share many of our genes (and therefore able to catch our diseases), the maximum time permitted to spend with them is 1 hour. You will have plenty of time to watch their activity and to take photographs. The rangers will be able to provide you with a background to the family you are visiting. Once your hour is up, you trek back out of the rain forest to your meeting point where you will be transferred back to the Lake Bunyoni campsite.

You needn't feel like you're exploiting these animals. The ever-growing number of tourists trekking them each day play a vital role in their survival. For years they have been ruthlessly hunted for their hands and heads, which have been sold as ashtrays and lampshades! In addition, large numbers have been killed whilst trying to stop poachers stealing the babies for sale to zoos, where they have never lived long. 100% of the gorilla permit cost is used to by the parks authorities to finance patrols that are instrumental in protecting the gorillas from poachers and their lethal snares and on promoting these wonderful animals.

Depending on where the trek takes place you may also pass through some of the local villages that have settled in this region due to the high number of refugees fleeing from the Rwandan Genocide, or from the continued unrest in the DRC. The villagers in this area are mostly subsistence farmers, and families that farm against the slopes of the volcanoes. It is impressive to see how they have ploughed, planted and harvest their crops in such an unlikely landscape.

GORILLA TREKKING IS OPTIONAL

DAY 44: Lake Bunyoni to Kampala (Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner)

After marvelling at the experience of our gorilla encounters and enjoying the peaceful Lake Bunyoni, we begin our drive back to Kampala. We cross the Equator for the second time and stop for the classic "one foot in each hemisphere" photo opportunity. We overnight in Kampala and have the opportunity to sample its night life!

DAY 45: Kampala to Jinja (Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner)

Today we have the option of visiting the Ngamba Island Chimpanzee Sanctuary or heading to Jinja for a selection of adventure activities including white water rafting at the source of the White Nile, quad biking or visiting a volunteer and community project. Spend the afternoon relaxing on the banks of the river, or ticking off the wide variety of water birds in this area.

DAY 46: Jinja to Nakuru (Kenya) (Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner)

Departing early, we head back to Kenya, stopping for lunch and supplies en route. We overnight outside Nakuru at a lovely campsite on a local farm. Nakuru is Kenya's 4th largest town and capital of the Rift Valley Province and lies adjacent to the small but wildlife rich Lake Nakuru National Park. *EAMO Orphanage

EAMO: East African Mission Organisation

DAY 47: Lake Nakuru National Park (Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner)

This morning we begin our exploration of the Lake Nakuru National Park - famous for the thousands of lesser and greater flamingos that flock to this soda lake's edge. The numbers vary depending on the water level, and when it's low, the lake almost turns pink. A truly spectacular sight! The park was established as a sanctuary for black and white rhino, which are often seen. We spend the day searching for these pre-historic looking beasts as well as the elusive leopard, encountering buffalo, giraffe, various

antelope and the occasional hippo along the way. After our game drive, we head to our campsite, arriving in the late afternoon.

Included Activity: Game drives at Lake Nakuru National Park

Optional Activity: Spending time with the kids at EAMO

DAY 48: Lake Nakuru to Lake Naivasha (Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner)

Lake Naivasha, is home to a multitude of bird life, the most magnificent being the African Fish Eagle with his regal cry. At 1880 m, this is the highest of the Rift Valley lakes. We spend the day enjoying optional excursions like Elsamere (former home to Joy & George Adamson of Born Free fame), a boat ride to the Crescent Island Game Sanctuary or a bike ride around Hell's Gate National Park.

Included Activity: Lake Naivasha

DAY 49: Lake Naivasha to Nairobi (Breakfast)

After breakfast, we head back to Nairobi usually arriving by late morning, or early afternoon. On arrival we exchange addresses and part ways, having just experienced a trip of a lifetime!

The rest of the day is yours at leisure to enjoy some of the many options available in this bustling city; visit The David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust, where you can view the orphaned baby Elephants at feeding time, or head to the Giraffe Centre in Langata, if you haven't had your fill of game viewing, then Nairobi National Park offers some great day trips or if you haven't quite got all those souvenirs you wanted, take a "Matatu" to the local curio markets close by the campsite. This evening why not try the fair on offer at the famous Carnivores restaurant.

WHAT IS NOT INCLUDED?

Flights, Airport departure taxes departure transfer, visas, meals unless otherwise stated, travel insurance, laundry, Gorilla Permit, transfer to gorilla trek, personal items, sleeping bag, pillow & tips.

Meals on tour

Meals and menu's vary as food is purchased en-route, and is subject to produce that is available seasonally in the areas we travel through. As we support the local communities along the way, fresh produce is mostly purchased direct from the producer or local grower and therefore has an organic appearance. Our safari cooks are able to offer a wide variety of menu's with the ingredients available, even if the produce on offer is not of the same selection as what you may be used to back home.

The breakfast spread consists of bread (toast when time allows), spreads and cereals with a hot breakfast every few days. Lunches are mostly prepared en-route with a supply of 'build your own' sandwich ingredients available. Dinners are cooked in the evenings on arrival at the campsite. A wide array of dinner menus are on offer during your safari, consisting of curries, stews, pastas, BBQ's and even roasts!

Transport on tour

Our overland vehicles are custom built converted Mercedes Benz or MAN trucks that have seating space for our passengers and a storage areas for luggage and all trip equipment. The trucks seat between 27-30 passengers on our camping trips. Most seats are forward facing, though some models have a combination of forward, backward and some inward facing seats with tables. Vehicles have sliding glass windows, and the seating area is raised providing a great advantage for game viewing and photography. Seats are cushioned and there is storage space for personal items like cameras, snacks and day packs in the seating area.

Participation on tour

All of the tours are participation trips meaning that all passengers are expected to help out around camp. The crew members running the trip will set up a rota system that will be followed. One day you may be on cleaning duty, the next day you may be on cooking duty and so forth. This is not only to make the trip easier for all involved but also for you as the passengers to get to know one another while on trip.

OPTIONAL EXCURSIONS

Below is a **selection** of Optional Excursions available on this trip.

Where activities occur away from your base, there may be an additional transfer cost.

SOUTH AFRICA:	
Johannesburg City Tour (pre-trip)	80 US\$
Soweto Tour - Joburg/ Pretoria (pre-trip) from	80 US\$
MOZAMBIQUE:	
Ocean Safari	70 US\$
Island Kayak Trip	80 US\$
Snorkeling	40 US\$
Horse Riding	60 US\$
Fishing Trips (min no's apply)	200 US\$
ZIMBABWE:	
Please ensure that you pay for activities in Victoria Falls with US\$ CASH	
Trip T-Shirt	30 US\$
VICTORIA FALLS:	
White Water Rafting-Full Day	140 US\$
River Boarding combo Raft & Board	180 US\$
Bungee Jump (111m)	150 US\$
Micro Light over the Falls-15mins	170 US\$
Helicopter Flight over the Falls 12 mins	155 US\$
Zambezi Sunset Boat cruise	From 50 US\$
MALAWI:	
Freshwater Diving at Kande Beach	55US\$ (Additional dives 30 US\$ each)
Horse Riding at Kande Beach 2Hr / 3Hr (Bush, Beach & Swim)	70 US\$ / 100 US\$
Village Walk & Meal at Kande Beach	20US\$
Traditional Healer Visit	10US\$
Livingstonia Mission Hike - 30km return	10US\$
Carving Lessons & Local Fishing.	*Price to be negotiated on arrival
TANZANIA:	

Serengeti / Ngorongoro Crater	From 500 US\$
Masai Village Visit	15 US\$
From	
Olduvai Gorge	10 US\$
Zanzibar:	
Transfer to Nungwe	20 US\$
Zanzibar Accommodation	From 40 US\$ - 60 US\$ per day
Spice Tour including lunch	40 US\$
Prison Island Snorkeling Trip	30 US\$
Diving, Snorkeling & Fishing	From 40 US\$
Dhow Sunset Cruise	40 US\$
Motorbike/ Car Hire	60 US\$ - 80 US\$
From	+local drivers license / insurance at 5 US\$
KENYA:	
Masai Mara Balloon Safari (when available)	550 US\$
Masai Village Visit	15 US\$

Masai Warrior Dancing	10 US\$
Naivasha Boat Hire (Max 7 Pax)	60 US\$ per hour
Naivasha Horse Riding	25 US\$ per hour
UGANDA:	
Gorilla Trek (excl. transfer & booking fee)	From 600 US\$
White Water Rafting on the Nile	160 US\$
Nile Bungee Jump	120 US\$
Soft Power Community Project	35 US\$
Quad Biking 2 hrs	100 US\$
Horse Riding 2 hrs	65 US\$ + transfer approx 20 US\$
Trip T-Shirt	35 US\$

PLEASE NOTE: That this is not a full list of available activities. There are many more to choose from. Prices are approximate and can change at any given time. Only to be used as a guideline.

Transfer fee will occur starting from US\$120