

# 56 Day Great African Trek (Nairobi to Cape Town)

This trip begins in Nairobi, Kenya and travels south through Uganda, Tanzania, Malawi, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Botswana and Namibia before ending in Cape Town, South Africa.

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

<b>Accommodation style:</b>	Camping
<b>Length of trip:</b>	56 Days
<b>Starts in:</b>	Nairobi, Kenya
<b>Finishes in:</b>	Cape Town, South Africa
<b>Pre-departure Meeting:</b>	Held at the Departure Point at 17h00, the day before your departure.
<b>Departure point:</b>	Wildebeest Eco Camp, 151 Mokoyeti Road West, Langata
<b>Check-In Time:</b>	08h45
<b>Departure Time:</b>	09h30
<b>Breakfasts included:</b>	49
<b>Lunches included:</b>	43
<b>Dinners included:</b>	43
<b>Brunches included:</b>	0
<b>Countries visited:</b>	South Africa, Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Malawi, 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.

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From Kenya's bustling capital Nairobi to Table Mountain, this epic fifty six day safari covers all the highlights of nine countries in east and southern Africa. Stare into the soft brown eyes of a gorilla, watch thousands of animals trample the plains of the Masai Mara and the Serengeti, bask on palm-backed

beaches on Zanzibar, and idle away sunny days on the banks of Lake Malawi. Further south are the thundering Victoria Falls, the vast wilderness of the Okavango Delta, the giant sand dunes in Namibia's Namib Naukluft National Park, and dynamic Cape Town, easily one of the most beautiful cities in the world.

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## **INCLUDED HIGHLIGHTS**

Masai Mara National Reserves, Great Rift Valley, Kampala, Lake Bunyonyi, Lake Nakuru National Park, Lake Naivasha, Meserani Snake Park & Masai Cultural Museum, Dar es Salaam, Zanzibar Ferry, Lake Malawi, South Luangwa National Park, , Entrance to Victoria Falls, Chobe Overnight Excursion, Chobe National Park, Okavango Delta Excursion, Etosha National Park, Spitzkoppe, Swakopmund, Transfer to Sossusvlei, Namib Naukluft National Park, Fish River Canyon, Canoeing on the Orange River, wine tasting & Township Tour.

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## **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 1: 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, Acacia Camp in the late afternoon. Acacia Camp looks on to the Meguarra hills and the stream that meanders by on the bottom end forms a natural border to the Masai Mara National Reserve.

**Included Activity: Masai Mara Nature Reserve excursion**

### **DAY 2: 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 3: 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 4: 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 5 - 8: 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**

**Please note that the transfer fee is not included in the trekking price**

#### **DAY 9: 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 10: 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 11: 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 12: 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.

**Included Activity: Game drives through Lake Nakuru National Park in our own vehicle.**

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.

**DAY 13: 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 14: Lake Naivasha to Nairobi** (Breakfast)

After breakfast, we head back to Nairobi usually arriving by late morning, or early afternoon.

**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 15: Nairobi to Arusha (Tanzania)** (Lunch / Dinner)

This morning we leave the hustle and bustle of Nairobi, travelling south and crossing the border into Tanzania at Namanga. Tonight we stay in a lovely campsite in Meserani on the outskirts of Arusha,

before heading out on our Serengeti and Ngorongoro Crater excursion tomorrow.

**DAY 16: 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 17: 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 18: 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.

**DAY 19: Arusha to Pangani\*** (Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner)

We head to Arusha this morning to stock up on supplies before continuing on towards Dar es Salaam. On the way we drive through the town of Moshi situated at the magnificent Mount Kilimanjaro – Africa's highest mountain. 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! We pass through vast sisal plantations surrounded by The Usambara and Pare Mountain ranges, before reaching our lovely campsite nestled between these mountains, midway between Arusha and Dar es Salaam.

**\*Some trips may choose to forego this night at their own cost.**

#### **DAY 20: Pangani to Dar es Salaam (Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner)**

Today we continue on to Dar es Salaam. Travelling through lush scenery and palm trees, we near the warm Indian Ocean. 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 21: 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 22 & 23: 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 24: Zanzibar to Dar es Salaam (No Meals)**

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. In Dar we exchange addresses and part ways, having just experienced a trip of a lifetime!

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

This morning we leave Dar es Salaam and head south. 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. We travel towards Iringa where we spend the night in a beautiful rustic campsite famous for its Amarula Hot Chocolates and its steamy showers!

### **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 26 - 28: Iringa to Lake Malawi (Malawi) (Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner)**

Winding our way through the beauty of the Tukuyu tea and banana plantations, we head towards Malawi entering the ‘Warm Heart of Africa’ through the border post at Songwe. Malawi is a landlocked country with 20% of its total area made up of beautiful Lake Malawi. We travel the length of the western side of the lake, stopping off at various bays and inlets over the next 3 days.

**Optional activities vary; however we do recommend that you do the village tour.**

**Please note that you can bring along with you pens, notepads, pencils and dry starch foods for the village tour. For more information please speak to your crew.**

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).

**DAY 29: Lake Malawi to Chipata (Zambia) (Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner)**

Today we leave Malawi and cross over into Zambia.

**DAY 30: Chipata to 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 31: Luangwa National Park to Eastern Zambia (Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner)**

Today we depart this amazing National Park and make our way down south. 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.

**DAY 32: Eastern Zambia to Livingstone (Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner)**

Heading further south, we journey through the southern Zambian towns mostly supporting local agriculture and farming on our way to Livingstone. The Victoria Falls or Mosi-oa-Tunya (the Smoke that Thunders) is one of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World and it's not difficult to see why. 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! The Falls can be viewed from the Mosi-oa-Tunya National Park, Zambia - a fantastic photo opportunity. Tonight we have the option of enjoying an optional sunset dinner cruise on the mighty Zambezi.

**Optional Activity: Zambezi Sunset river boat cruise**

**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 33: Livingstone to Chobe National Park (Botswana) (Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner)**

We leave Zambia and cross the border into Botswana at the Kazangula Ferry. 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. We then continue on 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 34: Chobe National Park to Victoria Falls (Zimbabwe) (Brunch)**

Once returning to camp, we get back on our truck and continue to the border of Zimbabwe. Once we've completed border formalities, we have a short drive to the nearby 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 35 - 36: Victoria Falls (Breakfast)**

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.

#### **DAY 37: Victoria Falls to Chobe National Park (Botswana) (Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner)**

After breakfast we cross the border into Botswana and head to Kasane where we have a chance to explore the town of Kasane. After lunch, once we are packed and prepared, 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 38: Chobe National Park** (Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner)

Once returning to camp, we have a bit of free time to relax at leisure.

**DAY 39: Chobe National Park to Maun** (Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner)

Heading out early, we cross the western end of the Chobe National Park area along the main route in a south-westerly direction to the southern reaches of the Okavango Delta and our destination, Maun.

On our route, we have routine stops to at Botswana's 'meat' borders – check points that were set up to protect its thriving beef export industry from the spread of disease. Maun is the starting point for travel into the Delta and it is from here that we set off to explore the Okavango Delta. Tonight we prepare our provisions and packs for our 2 night excursion. We suggest bringing along a smaller daypack on your trip which can be used to pack the supplies needed for this short excursion. Your trip leader will brief you fully on what is needed, and what to expect prior to your trip into the Delta.

**DAY 40: Maun to Okavango Delta** (Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner)

The Delta is a huge expanse of water, which has travelled from the Angolan highlands, spreading out to form the largest inland delta in the world. Studded with exotic islands, The Delta is renowned for its incredible variety of bird life and animals and is unique to Southern Africa.

**Included Excursion: 3 Day / 2 Night Drive in Mokoro Excursion**

Here we have the opportunity to take the included 3 Day / 2 Night Drive in Mokoro Excursion into the Delta. After an early rise, we pack our expedition vehicle and from Maun we drive north for a couple of hours to reach the mokoro poler's station. The Delta region is studded with many local villages where many families live in a traditional way. Some of the villages are very remote and can only be reached by the traditional mode of transport – the Mokoro. Mokoros are dugout canoes manoeuvred through the waterways by local guides who "pole" them through the reeds. At the Mokoro station, we meet our 'polers' and pack our supplies before heading out into the waterways.

After a couple of hours along the waterways, our guides find us a place to camp, and later in the afternoon we set off on an afternoon game walk, allowing us to experience The Delta wilderness. The camp is situated in an open wilderness area with no ablution facilities.

**DAY 41: Okavango Delta** (Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner)

A day of rest, relaxation and Delta experiences await. Today we have the opportunity to partake in a number of activities including swimming, game walks, mokoro cruises and even a chance to try our

hands at poling our own mokoro! There is also ample time to relax and rest during the hotter hours of the day, so challenge your new friends to a game of cards, or chat with your guides about their culture and lifestyle, or simply lie back and enjoy the sounds of the surrounding wilderness...

**DAY 42: Okavango Delta to Maun** (Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner)

This morning affords us a final opportunity for a game walk before packing up and setting off back to Maun. After our Mokoro ride and vehicle transfer, we arrive back in the afternoon and have the chance to complete our picture of the Okavango Delta by taking an optional scenic flight over The Delta (dependent on weather conditions & availability).

**NAMIBIA**

This sandy yet spectacular country gained its independence from South Africa in the year of 1990 and its largest city, also the capital city is Windhoek. This is a country of compelling beauty and wide horizons dominated by the brooding and desolate Namib Desert, which has the highest sand dunes in the world.

**DAY 43: Maun to Divundu (Namibia)** (Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner)

Following the Kavango River, we enter Northern Namibia. Heading to our spectacular campsite located on the banks of the Kavango River – Watch the sun go down from the deck of the river, but keep watch for the occasional hippo grazing on the lawn!

**DAY 44: Divundu to Etosha National Park** (Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner)

From Divundu, we head to the Etosha National Park. Covering 22 270 km<sup>2</sup>, Etosha is Namibia's premier nature and wildlife reserve. Situated around the Etosha Pan with a large variety of animal and bird life, the extensive network of gravel roads affords us the opportunity of accessing even the most remote areas of the park. After lunch, and once it has cooled off a bit, we spend the remainder of the day exploring the park's northern area. Keep an eye out for the striking Oryx and Springbok as these are endemic to desert National Parks! After dinner why not head to the waterhole where you can sit and observe the animals may come to drink in the evenings.

**Optional Activity: Night game drives with Etosha National Park**

**DAY 45: Etosha National Park area** (Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner)

Today we make our way across the park, keeping a look out for the many different mammals, reptiles, birds and insects in the various regions. As the vegetation types change, so does the animal and bird life that relies on it, and so different sections of the Park offer a variety of different game options. After a full day of game viewing, we exit the park through Anderson gate and head to our camp just 10kms away; perhaps the chance for a quick dip in the pool before dinner, followed by a relaxing evening in this very interesting bar.

**Included Activity: Game drives through Etosha National Park in our own vehicle**

**DAY 46: Etosha National Park area** (Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner)

Today's drive takes us further south through the Namibian countryside to our campsite, located in the vicinity of Etosha National Park.

**Optional Activity: Game drive**

**DAY 47: Etosha National Park area to Brandberg (UIS)** (Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner)

Today we head down south to the area of the Brandberg. All depending on the time of arrival we will have the opportunity to explore the area.

**DAY 48: Brandberg (UIS) to Swakopmund** (Breakfast)

Today we head for Swakopmund, via Spitzkoppe. Founded by the Germans in 1892, their colonial influence is still evident today. Swakopmund has a selection of excellent coffee shops, restaurants & bars as well as many arts and crafts shops selling Namibian curios. There are fine beaches to walk along as well as a great museum, aquarium and galleries to visit. Alternatively, the lovely beach and promenade make for a great relaxing walk – though bathing in the ocean waters may be somewhat chilly!

**Included Activity: Brief stop at Spitzkoppe**

**DAY 49: Swakopmund** (Breakfast)

The next day can be spent relaxing or participating in a myriad of Optional Excursions. Some of our fellow passengers may leave us in Swakop, to be replaced by new passengers joining us for the final leg of our trip.

**Optional Activities:** Sky diving, quad biking, sand boarding, scenic desert flights, dolphin cruises, fishing trips, golf, horse riding and more. An activity briefing will be held on arrival in Swakopmund (see price guide at the end of this document).

**DAYS 50 - 51: Swakopmund to Sesriem** (Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner)

Leaving Swakopmund, we head south to the industrial Walvis Bay before turning inland and toward the desert. Continuing our journey, we enter the Namib-Naukluft Park in one of the oldest deserts in the world. We base ourselves at Sesriem, a great place to experience the Namib and its many moods. A short distance away is Sossusvlei, surrounded by a dramatic sea of sand dunes reputed to be the highest in the world. Magnificent views of the desert can be seen from the top of the dunes, some over 300 m high. We spend the afternoon exploring this amazing area.

**Included Activity: Visit to Dune 45**

**Included Activity: Visit to Sossusvlei**

**DAY 52: Sesriem to Fish River Canyon** (Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner)

Heading out early, we see the sunrise over this beautiful area and we leave the serenity of the dunes to head south to the Fish River Canyon. At 161 km long, 27 km wide and about 550 m deep, it's the second largest canyon in the world. The outer canyon was formed by tectonic activity, while the erosion of the Fish River formed the inner canyon. A road follows the eastern rim, giving us access to several viewing points from where we can take in the spectacular vistas.

**Included Activity: Visit to Fish River Canyon**

**DAY 53: Fish River Canyon to Gariep River (South Africa)** (Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner)

This morning we continue south, where, after a short drive, we reach the Gariep River - the natural land border between Namibia and South Africa. We camp at a beautiful campsite on the South African bank of the river. This afternoon we partake in a half-day canoe trip on the beautiful Gariep River, affording us the opportunity of some bird watching or just a scenic and relaxing paddle. Tonight there's a chance for

some fun at the awesome camp bar overlooking the river!

**Included Activity: Canoeing on the Gariep River**

**DAY 54: Orange River to Cederberg** (Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner)

An early morning start see us travel south through the Richtersveld and the mining town of Springbok, before reaching the region known as Namaqualand, well known for its prolific display of Namaqua wildflowers that occur each spring. We spend tonight in a picturesque campsite surrounded by local wine farms and have the opportunity to sample some of the nectar of the gods or to explore the surrounding beautiful Cederberg Mountains. Tonight is our last night under the stars!

**Included Activity: Wine tasting**

**DAY 55: Cederberg to Cape Town** (Breakfast)

We leave the scenic Cederberg area and travel south towards Cape Town. We travel through the rich fruit growing area of Citrusdal before crossing the Piekenierskloof Pass to the Cape's wine growing regions. Our first sighting of the Mother's City Table Mountain across Table Bay means we've reached our final destination. Tonight's accommodation is in dormitories in one of Cape Town's best loved hostels. . After we have checked in and got ourselves lunch, we will depart on a township tour in and around Cape Town. We will be dropped back at our hostel once we have finished the township tour.

**Included Activity: Township tour**

**Cape Area**

Starting in the mother city, Cape Town has much to offer, such as the flat topped Table Mountain, which is awesome for hiking and providing you with an aerial view of Cape Town. Then there is the pulse of the city – Long Street, which will provide you with all the food and entertainment needed on holiday. If that does not fulfil your holiday needs, the Cape area can provide you with a full day of education, sightseeing, breathe taking views and wine when partaking in a Winelands tour. A saying that will forever stick by us Capetonians – You don't need a holiday, you need Cape Town

**DAY 56: Cape Town** (No Meals)

This morning we exchange addresses and part ways, having just experienced a trip of a lifetime!

There are a wide range of activities available in Cape Town and the surrounding areas, including day trips, short tours and longer tours travelling up the picturesque coast of South Africa. We suggest you extend your stay by a few days to participate in some of the exciting activities available here. Post tour accommodation can be booked directly at: [info@ashanti.co.za](mailto:info@ashanti.co.za) or through our office.

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**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 operated by us 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.**

<b>KENYA:</b>	
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
<b>UGANDA:</b>	
Gorilla Trek ( <b>excl. transfer &amp; booking fee</b> )	From 600US\$
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\$
<b>TANZANIA:</b>	
Serengeti / Ngorongoro Crater	From 500 US\$
Masai Village Visit	15 US\$
From	

Olduvai Gorge	10 US\$
<b>Zanzibar:</b>	
Transfer to Nungwi	From 20US\$
Zanzibar Accommodation	From 40 US\$ - 60 US\$ per day
Spice Tour including lunch	40US\$
Prison Island Snorkeling Trip	30US\$
Diving, Snorkeling & Fishing	From 30US\$
Dhow Sunset Cruise	40 US\$
Motorbike/ Car Hire	60 US\$ - 80 US\$
From	+local drivers license / insurance at 5 US\$
<b>MALAWI:</b>	
Freshwater Diving at Kande Beach	45US\$ (Additional dives 30 US\$ each)
Horse Riding at Kande Beach 2Hr / 3Hr (Bush, Beach & Swim)	60 US\$ / 90 US\$
Village Walk & Meal at Kande Beach	15 US\$
Village Walk at Chitimba Beach	3US\$
Traditional Healer Visit	2US\$
Livingstonia Mission Hike - 30km return	7US\$
Carving Lessons & Local Fishing.	*Price to be negotiated on arrival
<b>ZIMBABWE:</b>	
<b>Please ensure that you pay for activities in Victoria Falls with US\$ CASH</b>	
Trip T-Shirt	30US\$
<b>VICTORIA FALLS:</b>	
White Water Rafting-Full Day	140US\$
River Boarding combo Raft & Board	180US\$
Canoeing on the Zambezi-Half Day/ Full Day	140US\$
Half Day Adrenaline - George Swing,ZipLine & Flying Fox	165US\$
Bungee Jump (111m)	150 US\$
Tandem Bungee Jump	180 US\$
Micro Light over the Falls-15mins	170US\$
Helicopter Flight over the Falls 12 mins	155US\$
Helicopter Flight over the Falls 19 – 25 mins	265US\$
Zambezi Sunset River boat cruise	From 50 US\$
<b>BOTSWANA:</b>	
Scenic Flight Over Delta (300-350US\$ per plane max 5 pax)	100US\$
<b>NAMIBIA:</b>	
<b>SWAKOPMUND ACTIVITIES:</b>	
Quad Biking – 1Hr/2 Hr	100US\$
Sand Boarding – Lie Down/ Stand Up	55US\$ / 70 US\$
Township Tour	80 US\$
Tandem Skydive	(Weather Permitting) 350 US\$
Horse Riding (2Hrs)	100US\$
Fishing	145US\$
Dolphin Cruise	80US\$
Kayaking	95 US\$
Paragliding	(Weather Permitting) 150 US\$
Scenic Flight (various)	(Weather Permitting) As per Operator
Hot Air Ballooning	(Weather Permitting) 450 US\$
<b>SOUTH AFRICA:</b>	
Various activities in Cape Town	Depends on choice of activity

**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**