

# The Big Overlander 47 days



Experience the contrasts and raw appeal of this majestic continent up close and personal. Visiting eight countries, spot wildlife in Africa's best game parks, trek for gorilla in Uganda, relax and unwind on Zanzibar and soak up the incredible sights!

## TOUR DETAILS:

- Starts in: Nairobi / Ends in: Johannesburg
- Departs: Saturdays - year round
- Local Payment: USD \$1105
- Breakfast:41, Lunch: 37, Dinner: 38
- Hotel Rating: Camping expedition
- Tour Guide: Yes

## ONLINE RESOURCES:

- For a detailed GO GUIDE - [click here](#)
- To book this trip - [click here](#)
- To enquire about this trip - [click here](#)

## TOUR MAP:



## QUICK WEB LINKS

[Africa Prices](#) ::: [Why Us for Africa?](#) ::: [Africa Reviews](#) ::: [Our Africa Blog](#) ::: [Top Spots in Africa](#) ::: [Festivals & Events](#) ::: [Accommodation](#) ::: [Africa Visas](#) ::: [Africa - Useful Info](#) ::: [FAQs on Africa](#) ::: [Africa Gallery](#) ::: [About Overlanding](#) ::: [Gorilla Trekking](#) ::: [Optional Activities](#) ::: [About Lodge Safaris](#)

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## Day 1: Nairobi

Saturday. Welcome to Kenya! We'll be there to collect you at Nairobi Airport. Your first night will be spent at our pre expedition campsite. On day 1 there will be a pre departure meeting at 17:00. Overnight - [Nairobi](#)

## Days 2 - 3: Masai Mara N.P.

Nairobi - Masai Mara. Heading west from Nairobi on day 2, we reach possibly Kenya's most famous natural attraction - the Masai Mara National Reserve. The Kenyan section of the wildly beautiful Serengeti Plains teems with wildlife. The highlight of the Mara is no doubt the annual wildebeest migration, when literally millions of these beasts plus zebra and Thomson's gazelle stray north from the Serengeti in neighbouring Tanzania in search of lush grass on the savannah plains. Elephant, lion, cheetah, giraffe and a multitude of hooved herbivores also inhabit the reserve. A game drive through the Mara on day 3 gives us the chance to spot the Big Five. During our stay we can also opt to visit a local Masai tribe. Overnight - [Masai Mara N.P.](#)



## Days 4 - 5:

Masai Mara - Kisumu - Kampala (Uganda). Leaving the Masai Mara early on day 4, we head out of Masai Land and pass through the scenic tea plantations of Kericho before descending the Rift Valley Plateau, on our way to Kisumu - Kenya's harbour town on the banks of Africa's largest lake, Lake Victoria, where we spend the night. The following morning, we cross the border into Uganda where we overnight in the capital city, Kampala. Overnight - Kisumu (1), Kampala (1)



## Days 6 - 9:

Kampala - Lake Bunyoni. From Kampala we drive to Lake Bunyoni, the deepest Crater Lake in Africa and home to a large and varied number of beautiful birds, which 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.

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 we trek with trained rangers in search of the mountain gorillas. Overnight - Lake Bunyoni

## Days 10 - 11:

Lake Bunyoni - Kampala - Jinja. 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! On day 11 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. Overnight - Kampala (1), Jinja (1)

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## Days 12 - 13: Lake Nakuru

Jinja - Nakuru - Naivasha (Kenya). Departing early, we head back to Kenya and spend the night 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. Lake Nakuru National Park is home to a veritable array of wildlife. The park supports a population of black rhino, lion, leopard, zebra, antelope and giraffe not to mention millions of pink flamingos. The lake itself is a shallow soda lake. The following morning we begin our exploration of the national park and after our game drive, we travel on to Lake Naivasha arriving in the late afternoon. Overnight - Nakuru (1), Naivasha (1)



## Days 14 - 15: Lake Naivasha & Nairobi

Naivasha - Nairobi. 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. The next morning we head back to Nairobi. Overnight - Naivasha (1), Nairobi (1)

## Days 16 - 19: Optional Serengeti & Ngorongoro

Nairobi - Arusha (Tanzania). Leaving Nairobi, we cross the border

into Tanzania. Arusha is the starting point for the optional 3 day excursion to Ngorongoro Crater and the Serengeti. For those not opting to visit the Ngorongoro Crater or Serengeti National Park, the next 3 days are spent at leisure enjoying the Meserani reptile park, Masai Cultural Museum and the surrounding villages and craft markets. Alternatively the town of Arusha is close by to explore.

The Optional Ngorongoro/Serengeti excursion takes us via the Masai town of Mtu Wa Mbu (Mosquito River) that lies adjacent to the Lake Manyara National Park and 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. We spend the evening at a pleasant campsite in Karatu. The following morning we depart early for the Ngorongoro Conservation area and head into the wildlife rich Ngorongoro Crater. This World Heritage Site boasts some of the best game viewing in Africa – including the elusive Black Rhino. Overnight - Arusha (4), OR optional Karatu & Serengeti



## Days 20 - 21: Pangani & Dar es Salaam

Arusha - Pangani - Dar es Salaam. We return to Arusha 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. We may even catch a glimpse of this magical mountain's snowy summit - a photo opportunity not to be missed! We spend the night in Pangani midway between Arusha and Dar es Salaam before reaching our lovely seaside campsite in Dar es Salaam the following day. Overnight - Pangani (1), Dar es Salaam (1)

## Days 22 - 24: Zanzibar

Dar es Salaam - Zanzibar (optional). A ferry from Dar Es Salaam takes us to 'Spice Island', where we have the option to spend the next three nights.\* Zanzibar is steeped in history and offers a wealth of experiences. Wander the streets of Stone Town, take an excursion around a spice plantation or simply laze on one of the pristine white sandy beaches, the choice is yours!

**Accommodation is not provided on Zanzibar, allowing you the**

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**freedom to choose where you spend your time on the island. Your trip leader can arrange accommodation for you locally should you wish.**

\* For those opting not to visit Zanzibar, the 3 days can be spent at leisure at the beach campsite or exploring Dar Es Salaam. Overnight - Dar es Salaam (3) OR optional Zanzibar (3)



## Days 25 - 26:

Zanzibar - Dar es Salaam - Iringa. Leaving Zanzibar in the afternoon, we return to the mainland and another night in Dar es Salaam. The next morning we head south and 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! Overnight - Dar es Salaam (1), Iringa (1)

## Days 27 - 30:

Iringa - Lake Malawi (Malawi). Winding our way through the beauty of the Tukuyu tea and banana plantations, we travel into Malawi, 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 4 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. Overnight - Lake Malawi



## Days 31 - 32:

Lake Malawi - Chipata - Lusaka (Zambia). We head away from Lake Malawi, and stop off in the capital, Lilongwe, a small city distinctively divided into the old town and the new administrative centre, to stock up on supplies before crossing into Zambia where we spend the night in a beautiful little campsite. From Chipata, we head south-west via the Great East Road to our campsite on the outskirts of Zambia's capital city, Lusaka. Overnight - Chipata (1), Lusaka (1)

## Day 33: Livingstone

Lusaka - Livingstone. Heading further south, we journey 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 a sunset dinner cruise on the mighty Zambezi. Overnight - [Livingstone](#)



## Day 34: Chobe N. P.

Livingstone - Kasane (Botswana). Today we cross the border into Botswana and continue to the town of Kasane, on the banks of the Chobe River which forms a border between Zambia, Namibia and Botswana. After lunch, we take a boat cruise along the Chobe River and tonight we enjoy an exciting 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. Overnight - [Chobe N. P.](#)

## Day 35: Victoria Falls

Chobe - Victoria Falls (Zimbabwe). 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. Crossing the border into Zimbabwe, a short drive takes us to the nearby Victoria Falls.

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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. We enjoy our last day in the adrenaline playground of Africa, where there are optional activities aplenty here including Zambezi white water rafting, bungee jumping from 111m and flights over the Falls in a variety of airborne machines! Overnight - [Victoria Falls](#)

## Days 36 - 37: Victoria Falls

The next 2 days are spent relaxing or participating in a myriad of optional excursions. Optional excursions include 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 incredible aerial view of the falls and white water rafting on the Zambezi is world class! Overnight - [Victoria Falls](#)



## Days 38 - 39: Chobe N. P.

Victoria Falls - Chobe (Botswana). 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. Here we have a second opportunity to take part in the Chobe Overnight Mobile Excursion. For those who'd prefer to stay behind at the campsite in Kasane, there is an option to do an early morning game drive on the morning of day 39 instead.

After lunch the following day we head off on a boat cruise along the Chobe River. The Chobe River forms a natural border between Botswana, Namibia and Zambia and is the main water source to the Chobe National Park. Elephant, hippo and many bird species can be viewed from the boat while we watch a glorious African sunset. Overnight - [Chobe N.P.](#)

## Days 40 - 41: Optional Okavango Delta

Maun - Okavango Delta (optional). From Maun we have the

opportunity to take the optional 3 Day / 2 Night Okavango Delta Excursion. 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 (dugout canoes maneuvered through the waterways by local guides who "pole" them through the reeds). At the Mokoro station, we meet our 'polers' head 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.

Enjoy rest, relaxation and Delta experiences on day 42, when 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!

For those not opting to explore the Delta, you can stay at the campsite in Maun relaxing by the swimming pool or playing volleyball. Overnight - Maun OR optional Okavango Delta



## Day 42: Maun

Okavango Delta - Maun. 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). Overnight - [Maun](#)

## Day 43:

Maun - Palapye (Zimbabwe). Heading out early, we have a fairly long (450kms) drive today to the small town of Palapye, situated about halfway between Francistown and Gaborone (Botswana's Capitol). This popular 'stopover' town for those en route to South Africa, is well known for the Morupule Colliery coal mines which supplies Morupule Power Station, Botswana's principal domestic source of electricity. Overnight - Palapye

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## Day 44:

Palapye - Blydepoort (South Africa). This morning we cross into South Africa and continue across to our camp overlooking the impressive Blyde River Canyon. Named for the Blyde River that runs through it, the canyon is 26km long, and averages 800m deep and forms the northern edge of the impressive Drakensberg Mountain Range. The main viewpoints along the canyon are the 3 Rondavels, named for the shape of the traditional huts or houses the indigenous people of the area used to live in; and Gods Window that affords a breathtaking view across the canyon and surrounding area. Overnight - Blydepoort



## Days 45 - 46: Kruger N.P.

Blydepoort - Hazyview. Heading through the breathtaking Panorama Route, we stop off at various viewpoints today including scenic God's Window. We pass through the small town of Graskop, and head toward the Kruger National Park and our campsite on the border of the park. Situated just 10km from Kruger's Phabeni Gate, the camp is home to Giraffe, Zebra and Hippo to name but a few. The next day we visit the amazing Kruger National Park in search of some of the 146 mammals, 500 bird, 114 reptile, 33 amphibian & 49 fish species that make this park their home. We travel in our truck along the main game viewing routes within the park and stop off at some of the camps along the way. For those who wish to upgrade to an open vehicle game drive, this can be arranged with the trip leader at an additional cost. Overnight - Hazyview

## Day 47: Johannesburg

Wednesday. Hazyview - Johannesburg. After breakfast, we begin our journey to Johannesburg, our final destination. On arrival in Johannesburg we unload the truck for the final time, exchange addresses and part ways, having just experienced a trip of a lifetime!

### WHAT YOU SEE AND WHAT YOU GET:

Below is a list of key highlights and what is included on this tour. Further, where appropriate, we have listed the items that are not included in the tour price.

### Trip Highlights

- **Kenya:** Nairobi, extend your stay to explore the sites. The Great Rift Valley. Lake Nakuru National Park and lake, famous for its flamingos. Lake Naivasha, the highest Rift Valley lake. The Masai Mara, Kenya's finest wildlife reserve. Masai Mara tribal lands.
- **Uganda:** Kampala, the lively capital. Lake Bunyoni, spectacular scenery. Jinja, Nile rafting. The Equator Crossing.
- **Gorilla Trekking** (an optional excursion). Bwindi or Mgahinga Gorilla park in Uganda or Ruhengeri (Rwanda) or Parc National des Virunga (DRC)
- **Tanzania:** Arusha, the safari gateway. The Serengeti and Ngorongoro Crater (an optional excursion). Views of Mt Meru and Mt Kilimanjaro. Pangani, a historical coastal town. Dar es Salaam, Tanzania's largest city. Mikumi National Park (transit only).
- **Zanzibar:** (optional) Beautiful northern beaches & historic Stone Town (UNESCO-listed).
- **Malawi:** Lake Malawi, one of the African Great Lakes, with beautiful beaches, bays and inlets.
- **Zambia:** Livingstone & Mosi-oa-Tunya National Park, Zambia's gateway to Victoria Falls (optional).
- **Botswana:** Chobe National Park, famous for its herds of elephants. Boat cruise along the Chobe River. The Okavango Delta (optional excursion).
- **Zimbabwe:** UNESCO Listed Victoria Falls, one of the natural wonders of the world.
- **South Africa:** Kruger National Park, South Africa's flagship game reserve. The scenic Panorama Route and Blyde River Canyon. Johannesburg - extend your stay to explore the city.

### What's Included

- Arrival transfer from Nairobi Airport on day 1
- 1st night dormitory accommodation at Acacia Camp Nairobi (upgrades available), 42 nights camping
- Transport in fully equipped expedition truck
- Services of 3 person crew (leader, driver, cook)
- All camping fees & appropriate equipment
- 41 breakfasts, 37 lunches and 38 dinners
- Return ferry to Zanzibar island
- Mikumi National Park (transit only)
- Park entry - Lake Naivasha NP. Park entry & game drives - Lake Nakuru NP, Masai Mara, Chobe NP and Kruger
- All road taxes & tolls
- Chobe River boat trip

### What's Not Included

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- Gorilla Permit and transfer fee: Please note that Gorillas often move across the border, between the national parks in Rwanda, Uganda and DRC, therefore itineraries often have to be changed at short notice in order to track the Gorillas in whichever National Park they have migrated to. For this reason the cost of the Gorilla Permit and relevant transfers varies, as do the applicable visa costs, dependent upon which country we need to travel into.
- Accommodation in Zanzibar
- International flights and visas
- Tipping - an entirely personal gesture
- Sleeping bag and roll mat - please bring your own
- Optional activities
- Entrance Fees: Gorilla Permit + Transfer US \$575 - 815

## BOLT-ONS:

Make the most of your time away! Listed below are the optional activities that are available on this trip. Please note that you will need to book these prior to travel as we cannot always guarantee availability of these activities once you are on holiday.

### Masai Mara - 4 Days - USD \$495

Take a walk on the wild side with this Masai Mara Mini Safari. Go in search of the Big Five in Kenya's Masai Mara - arguably the country's most famous reserve. Enjoy an exciting game drive through the Mara and the opportunity to spot a diverse array of wildlife including elephant, giraffe, black rhino, lion, leopard, cheetah, gazelle, buffalo and hippo.

## PRICES AND DATES: from USD \$2,995

Prices shown above are per person travelling. Single travellers will be paired up in tents with another person of the same sex.

### 2012

Date	Price/Person	Single Supp.
19 MAY - 04 JUL	USD \$2,995	-
02 JUN - 18 JUL	USD \$2,995	-
16 JUN - 01 AUG	USD \$2,995	-
30 JUN - 15 AUG	USD \$2,995	-
14 JUL - 29 AUG	USD \$2,995	-
28 JUL - 12 SEP	USD \$2,995	-
11 AUG - 26 SEP	USD \$2,995	-
25 AUG - 10 OCT	USD \$2,995	-
08 SEP - 24 OCT	USD \$2,995	-
22 SEP - 07 NOV	USD \$2,995	-
06 OCT - 21 NOV	USD \$2,995	-

03 NOV - 19 DEC	USD \$2,995	-
01 DEC - 16 JAN	USD \$2,995	-
29 DEC - 13 FEB	USD \$2,995	-

### 2013

Date	Price/Person	Single Supp.
26 JAN - 13 MAR	USD \$2,995	-
23 FEB - 10 APR	USD \$2,995	-
23 MAR - 08 MAY	USD \$2,995	-
06 APR - 22 MAY	USD \$2,995	-
20 APR - 05 JUN	USD \$2,995	-
04 MAY - 19 JUN	USD \$2,995	-
18 MAY - 03 JUL	USD \$2,995	-
01 JUN - 17 JUL	USD \$2,995	-
15 JUN - 31 JUL	USD \$2,995	-
29 JUN - 14 AUG	USD \$2,995	-
13 JUL - 28 AUG	USD \$2,995	-
27 JUL - 11 SEP	USD \$2,995	-
10 AUG - 25 SEP	USD \$2,995	-
24 AUG - 09 OCT	USD \$2,995	-
07 SEP - 23 OCT	USD \$2,995	-
21 SEP - 06 NOV	USD \$2,995	-
05 OCT - 20 NOV	USD \$2,995	-
02 NOV - 18 DEC	USD \$2,995	-

## POSTCARDS:

Here's what some of our past travellers have written in to us and said about their experiences on this trip.

*Hi Ryan, Just a quick email to say thanks for organizing my trip to Africa! I was amazed by the beauty of this country. I saw a lot of tv shows about Africa, but being there and experiencing the nature that is completely different from the one we know was mind-blowing! Great adventure, I would highly recommend Africa with On the Go.*

Aaron Tigers, Mar 2009