

Africa Unplugged - 5 weeks

Trip Dossier



EXPEDITION FACTS

Departs:	For departures from 01 May 2003 through 31 December 2004
Accommodation:	2 person tents
Staffing:	Led by on the go/Overland Club Trip Leader, plus services of Driver/Mechanic
Transport:	Fully-equipped Scania 2 wheel drive 220 bhp overland truck, chosen for their reliability, strength, adaptability and safety. Our trucks have cloth-upholstered coach style seats, baggage lockers and other additions for your comfort. Some other forms of transport will replace the use of the truck during optional activities/excursions. These modes of transportation include-smaller 4 wheel drive vehicles such as land-rovers, ferry service between Dar Es Salaam and Zanzibar, mokoro dug-out canoes in Botswana and an assortment of novelty transportation such as white water rafts, dune buggies etc. These modes of transportation will apply to you if you opt for an excursion that utilizes these forms of transportation.
What to see:	Nairobi, Arusha, Ngorongoro Crater and Serengeti, Maasai Tribal Territories, Dar Es Salaam, Zanzibar island and watersports, Mikumi Game Park, Lake Malawi and watersports, Tete Corridor journey, Harare, Gweru Antelope Park-walking with lions etc, Great Zimbabwe Ruins, Matopo National Park, Victoria Falls and adrenaline activities. A detailed range of optional activities complementing the above highlights can be found under the heading 'Optional Activities' featured in our guide - Africa A to Z.
Introduction:	<p>It is important for every person joining one of our overland expeditions across Africa that the following information is read. It contains important information relating to the route usually undertaken. The information compiled in our guide - Africa A to Z should be read in conjunction with the trip dossier. The information given in our guide - Africa A to Z is designed to help you prepare for your Overland adventure in Africa. All the information is compiled in good faith and is up to date at the time of compilation. It must be realised however that things do change from time to time. In order to make your stay in Africa to be as pleasant as possible, we recommend you read through this documentation and our supporting Africa A to Z guide thoroughly. Please also feel free to contact our office before you go to Africa for any additional information.</p> <p>**Please note - our guide Africa A to Z is supplied upon booking. If you have requested a copy of this trip dossier or downloaded this copy from our website prior to booking, please refer to the helpful information detailed within our brochure. Our brochure will provide you with all of the most essential information to help you decide about booking. Once we have received your deposit, full confirmation will be mailed to your address, coupled with our guide - Africa A to Z.</p>
Meals:	Whilst camping and with the truck, 3 meals a day are prepared by the group on a rotational basis, the cost of which is covered by the kitty. 2 meals a day are provided when we are in towns.
Entrance Fees:	Not included. A list of approximate costs can be found in our current brochure detailed under the heading 'Optional Activities' on page 5. This information can also be found under the same heading in our guide - Africa A to Z.
Cost of Expedition:	GBP£495.00 plus GBP£150 KITTY(paid locally on Day One)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

When in Rome:	Do as the Romans do! Visiting and travelling in foreign countries is a fabulous experience and often the reason why we leave the comfort of our familiar routines back home. Africa is a fascinating continent and as with most travel destinations, you'll be exposed to new and interesting experiences. Keep an open mind. Things don't always happen as quickly or efficiently as we expect them to in Britain, Europe, Australia, New Zealand or North America. Don't let this deter from your overall enjoyment of the overall experience. Things can and do change, sometimes with little notice. That's all part of the African travel experience.
The Team:	<p>Our team is chosen for their knowledge and travel experience in this region. They have a passion and enthusiasm for their work. All overland expeditions are equipped with a team of two. The team comprises a Driver/Mechanic coupled with a Trip Leader. Our team will help you get the most out of your trip and will assist with the booking of optional excursions, too. Occasionally, there may be a third team member assisting or in-training.</p> <p>Your Trip Leader's role is to ensure that all aspects of the overland expedition run smoothly and as 'crease-free' as possible. Our Trip Leader's are not trained zoologists, botanists or historians, however he/she will keep you abreast during the trip of what's going on and will happily provide local information such as where to eat and where to exchange money.</p> <p>The Trip Leader is not a babysitter and will not remain with the group 100% of the time. Whilst being a Trip Leader is a full-time job, the Trip Leader is entitled to some leisure time at appropriate times.</p> <p>On the occasion that things don't go according to plan, your Trip Leader could need your understanding and patience whilst he/she works to resolving the problem. The Trip Leader will ultimately decide any changes to the route provided.</p> <p>If you are dissatisfied with any aspect of your on the go/Overland Club expedition, please advise your Trip Leader, so that he/she can take steps to right the problem.</p>

Included: Transport in fully equipped expedition truck, services of 2 person team, all camping fees and equipment as detailed, accommodation in 2 person tents(provided for use), 3 meals a day whilst with the truck(2 meals in towns), all road taxes and tolls paid for, spit roast BBQ, entries for -Chipangali Animal Orphanage, Gweru Antelope Park, Victoria Falls National Park, End of Expedition Group Meal at Boma Restaurant.

Not included: Visa and vaccination costs(which are the responsibility of the traveller), drinks, optional activities, gratuities, laundry and other sundry personal costs, flights to/from/within Africa, meals other than those detailed under the heading 'meals', travel insurance, personal spending money.

Feedback: We kindly ask that all travellers complete an Expedition Feedback form at the end of their expedition. It only takes a few minutes, and allows **on the go** to continually improve their product. We invite honest feedback, as we are keen to hear from our clients whose satisfaction is what we at on the go strive for. If you've had a good time, we're happy. If you have a grip, please let us know.

Other: For information regarding visas and passports, vaccinations and what to pack plus a host of other information, please refer to our guide - Africa A to Z supplied upon booking. If you have requested a copy of this trip dossier or downloaded this copy from our website prior to booking, please refer to the helpful information detailed within our brochure. Our brochure will provide you with all of the most essential information to help you decide about booking. Once we have received your deposit, full confirmation will be mailed to your address, coupled with our guide - Africa A to Z.

All the routes and information given below are supplied in good faith. The description given is usually a very good indication of what the average group achieves. However, we do visit remote and often primitive regions. As a result, overland travel can be subject to delays and itinerary alterations, caused by one or any number of hiccups. These hiccups can be as a result of but not limited to climatic conditions, visa or bureaucracy problems, vehicle breakdowns, politics, decisions with the group or instruction from the company.

ITINERARY - 5 weeks

Day 1

Leaving Nairobi, classic African scenery unfolds before us almost straightaway. We cross savannah grasslands dotted with acacia trees and spear clad Maasai herdsman in their familiar red and plaid dress grazing their prized cattle. Previously thought of as 'noble savages', the Maasai peoples were both feared and admired by early colonials. The proud and stoical Maasai tribe are clinging tightly to their traditional ways, valuing their nomadic life free of possessions and governed only by the change of seasons and wealth measured by the number of wives and sons they have and the highly revered cattle they possess. On route to the Tanzanian border we pass several small Maasai villages and we may even spot grazing giraffe, zebra and gazelle.

At the border town of Namanga formalities are straightforward but beware of the elderly Maasai women wishing to adorn you with Maasai beaded jewellery and trinkets!

Tanzania is home to some of the African continent's finest game reserves and of course the proud Maasai warrior tribespeople. Soaring above the Savannah plains of Tanzania is snow-capped Mt Kilimanjaro. At a lofty 5895-metres, it is the highest mountain in Africa.

Our first night will be camped in an area known to overlanders as 'Giraffe Lands'. Here, we will free camp in the native bushland. Passing Maasai herdsman may sometimes visit our camp.

Day 2

The days in Africa start early and for us it is no different. Packing up camp after breakfast, we drive towards the town of Arusha, once more through open savannah plains. Our destination is Arusha just a couple of hours from our previous night's free camp.

Heading for Arusha, we set up camp just outside of this pleasant town at Mesarani at a camp known as the Snake Park. The camp has hot showers, toilets and a bar! We'll enjoy a guided and educational view of deadly African snakes at the park and perhaps observe feeding time, too.

Surrounded by many coffee and maize estates, Arusha sits in lush, green countryside at the foot of Mt Meru. Arusha is perfectly placed for optional excursions to two of Tanzania's finest game reserves. Within striking distance is the Serengeti National Park and Ngorongoro Crater Conservation area. Arusha sure lives up to its name as the safari town of Tanzania. On an optional and very popular excursion, we can embark on a 2 or 3-day safari in locally operated all terrain vehicles, which are specially adapted for safari use. In the town of Arusha there is time to change money and wander the curio markets where local Makondi carvings can be purchased.

Days 3,4,5

Combine the Crater with a game drive in the Serengeti and you'll have seen two of Tanzania's finest game reserves. If undertaking this optional activity, the excursion will leave today and carry through until day 5. Alternatively, you're welcome to remain with the truck at the campsite and enjoy Arusha.

The Savannah plains of the Serengeti are home to the famous wildebeest and zebra migration and more than 3 million large mammals living in total freedom. Spot the ubiquitous wildebeest and zebra, not to mention herds of gazelle. In their wake are the predators-lion, cheetah and hyena. Prolific also is elephant and giraffe not to mention much other sub-specie. This is game-viewing at it's best, so take lots of film. Our first night will be camped in the park at one of the designated campgrounds with the sounds of hyena and lion audible at night.

The best time for game viewing is during the early hours of the morning, so our experienced guides will want to be on the road early to allow you the best chances of perhaps viewing the predatory leopard, lion or cheetah.

Covering the park in the morning and enjoying a picnic at lunchtime, we move onto the Ngorongoro crater later that afternoon. We again camp inside the park this time high on the crater rim, which allows us great views of the crater interior in the evening and following morning.

There can be few people who have not heard, read or seen film or TV footage featuring the mighty Ngorongoro Crater Conservation area. Measuring 20 kilometres wide, with 600 metre walls, it's a vast and steep unbroken volcanic crater ring, its crater floor packed with a plethora of wildlife. Home to nearly every species of African animal, this natural amphitheatre with a permanent water and pasture source offers a chance to view an incredible concentration of East African mammals, not least of all the prehistoric rhinoceros and the multitude of flamingos that frequent the Crater Lake. Zebra, gazelle, elephant and wildebeest graze amongst the predatory lion, presenting a photographer's nirvana

We spend the majority of this next day again in the conservation area before returning to Arusha before sunset.

Days 6 -7

Leaving the Arusha and Meru region, we journey in a south-easterly direction past snow-capped Mt Kilimanjaro - the continent's highest peak to the town of Moshi. Moshi is also the start point for Mt Kilimanjaro climbing expeditions.

For those that feel energetic, the opportunity to climb the dizzying heights of Mt Kilimanjaro is available before re-joining the group at Dar es Salaam. It is worth possessing a certain amount of personal fitness, as the trek up Mt Kilimanjaro is an endurance test to many. Too many people try to scale Mt Kilimanjaro without sufficient acclimatisation and end up with altitude sickness or, at the very least, nausea and headaches. This would obviously detract from your enjoyment of ascending Kili's lofty heights and prevents quite a few people from reaching the summit. Scaling a 5895-metre mountain is certainly no joy ride, for the many that try and fail. For those that succeed, reaching the summit is one of those true 'life experiences'. A real conversation piece.

Please refer to a separate Kilimanjaro fact sheet, for further information. This is available upon request from **on the go**.

From Moshi, we continue to the town of Loshoto which lies hidden in the mountains. Camping here, we can enjoy short village walks to some magnificent viewpoints on the Maasai Steppe. Up here in the mountains, the air is crisp and clean. Having stopped at Loshoto, it breaks up the journey onto Dar es Salaam tomorrow.

Day 8

Arriving at Dar Es Saalam (meaning "haven of peace" in Swahili) on the Indian Ocean coast, we set up base camp just outside the city on the coast at Makadi Beach and enjoy a beach barbecue. From here, we have the opportunity to enjoy an optional excursion to Zanzibar. Those that don't wish to go to Zanzibar are free to remain at the beach camp and explore Dar es Salaam. However the exotic Arabian 'Spice Island' of Zanzibar should not be missed as it evokes many exotic images in the minds of travellers.

Days 9 -14

The ferry journey takes 1 to 2 hours depending on the service opted for and sea condition.

Disembarking in the old stone town, we transfer to a cheap pension within the old city. The old stone town still retains its Arabic influence - from the Medina-like shops, bazaars and mosques to the palaces of the Sultans of Zanzibar who founded their vast empires on the spoils of the slave and ivory trades.

Spice tours can be arranged into the countryside where you'll see vast plantations and the chance to sample the spices and tropical fruits. Zanzibar's island's most enduring feature is its superb beaches. The waters are crystal clear; there is a whole family of giant land tortoises and a range of aquatic activities including windsurfing, snorkelling, SCUBA diving and sailing. In the evening you can enjoy the seafood, join the locals for a deliciously cheap dinner at the waterside market and enjoy a beer at sunset at the Africa House Hotel!

Please note: this part of the itinerary is **optional** and there is no requirement for passengers to remain with the group. You are free to explore Zanzibar of your own accord and organise your own accommodation according to your budget.

Days 15 - 16

From Zanzibar and Dar es Salaam we travel through the spectacular and largely untouched Tanzanian countryside enroute to Malawi. Our route across Tanzania to Malawi, takes us through the Mikumi National Park. Although not an excursion the road actually passes right through the centre of the park. Driving through the park is an unexpected bonus and it is possible to see quite a number of giraffe, antelope and elephants. It is interesting to note that these elephants are very small in stature, which in turn encourages the belief that they are pygmy elephants that are found in Equatorial Africa. The more likely explanation is that the large ones were poached and that the gene of the smaller elephant is all that remains.

We cover considerable distance this day and at sunset find ourselves free camping in an area known to Overlander's as Baobab Valley due to the concentrations of Baobab tree. The next day heading still further south, we encounter a variety of scenery including barren plains, forested reserves, marshland and rural villages dotted amongst verdant coffee, tea and banana plantations. We'll restock our onboard supplies from these markets before entering Malawi.

Days 17 - 20

Crossing the border, we enter Malawi, a relatively small country in central southern Africa. Malawi, a land-locked country, is dominated by beautiful Lake Malawi. More than 30% of the country's landmass comprises Lake Malawi. Making our way down the shoreline of Lake Malawi, we beach hop along the way. We will pitch our camp on the sandy shoreline at Chitimba Beach, Kande Beach and Senga Bay.

The country's temperate climate allows for swimming in the clear blue waters all year round offering us time for rest and relaxation! Lake Malawi also offers a variety of water sports from these various beachside campsites, alternatively, you can go wandering along quieter shorelines where you can see the fishermen sorting their daily catch. Traditional methods are still used in their fishing techniques and you can appreciate their boating skills by trying to paddle in a dugout canoe yourself.

Malawi is called 'The Warm Heart of Africa' and whilst meeting the gentle and carefree people, of the region you will soon come to understand why.

Kande Beach is an Overlanders Mecca and offers diving for beginners and novices. It is one of the safest and best places for swimming in Africa. The Lake itself has over 230 species of tropical fish, and snorkelling is just the ticket in the clear, warm waters. However; at Kande as with the other beachside locations be warned the sandy beaches get very hot, so hot in fact that you will find yourself running across the beach too cool off in the fresh water!

The local markets in Malawi are full of woodcarvings; the most famous of these being large carved chairs known locally as Malawi chairs. These chairs have proved popular with our travellers over the years only to decrease in popularity when it becomes time to send such a large object home.

Days 21 -22

Departing Malawi, we cross the border into Mozambique and travel along the Tete Corridor via Tete, crossing an impressive bridge over the mighty Zambezi along the way. During Mozambique's period of civil unrest, the Tete Corridor was filled with bandits and undesirables. Today, this transit route through the usually lush, green countryside of this part of Mozambique saves us time and money allowing us to continue our travels at a more relaxed pace. The night we spend in Mozambique is usually rewarded with an explosive sunset.

Continuing over the border into Zimbabwe, we travel to the capital - Harare, stopping briefly to restock, shop, post

mail etc before continuing our circuit through Zimbabwe.

Days 23 - 26

Departing Harare, we head southeast to Gweru Antelope Park. Gweru supports a successful lion-breeding program and makes for an interesting stop. Reason being, is Gweru offer visitors the option of walking with the lions! Seriously! We're not talking the fully-fledged mean-lean-hunting machine variety but young lions that haven't yet learnt human beings equate to a healthy meal. All the same, we can walk with these beasts out into the wilderness and observe their feline characteristics at close range. This really is a once in a lifetime experience! Gweru also offers elephant back rides and horse riding.

Days 27 - 28

From here, we head to the Great Zimbabwe Ruins, otherwise known as the Great Zimbabwe National Monument. Great Zimbabwe, the greatest medieval city in sub-Saharan Africa, provides visual and physical evidence that ancient Africans reached a level of civilisation not suspected or uncovered by earlier scholars. This ancient stone city of between 10,000 and 20,000 peoples dominated a realm that stretched across what is now eastern Zimbabwe and into present-day Botswana, Mozambique and South Africa. Archaeologists have attributed over 150 tributary zimbabweans to the Great Zimbabwe society, in other words an amalgamation of smaller fragmented groups gathered under one central political system.

Naturally, early colonists were sceptical of the origins of Great Zimbabwe and tried to ascribe the origins to that of other ancient peoples such as the Egyptians, Phoenicians, Jews or Greeks. Indeed, in 1932 a British archaeologist made conclusive proof of the fact that Great Zimbabwe Ruins was Bantu in origin, having studied the ruins and unearthed artifacts assiduously. However, right up until the time of Zimbabwe's independence, the Rhodesian government ignored the evidence of carbon dating and supported far-fetched stories of foreign involvement and influence. They perpetuated the myth that Great Zimbabwe pre-dated the Christian era. Indeed, not a shred of proof indicates the Egyptians; Jews, Phoenicians, Greeks or other peoples were responsible for this impressively advanced city. We camp close by which will allow us to wander amongst the simple, though labour intensive constructions.

Days 29 - 31

Continuing, we journey to Bulawayo- Zimbabwe's bright and historical second city and capital of Matabeleland. From Bulawayo there is the option of a horseback safari at Matobo National Park, which is renown for its black and white rhino population. Matopo National Park also has the distinction of being the final resting-place for Cecil John Rhodes- an influential British colonist and Rhodesia's founding father. From Bulawayo, we give people the option of taking the overnight train to Victoria Falls just for something different. If not, you may continue to travel with the truck to Victoria Falls.

Days 32 - 35

Known as the pleasure and adrenaline playground of Africa-Victoria Falls is where we'll spend 2-3 days relaxing and chilling out.

At 1.7 kilometres wide Victoria Falls is a memorable sight on your African expedition. Mosi-oa-tunya, which translates to 'The Smoke that thunders', is the local name for Victoria Falls. Over this incredible precipice, an astonishing 550,000 cubic metres of water plummets 90 to 107 metres into the Zambezi gorges every minute. During the March to May flood stage, the volume increases to a whopping 5 million cubic metres per minute! The view moved Dr Livingstone to declare 'on sights as beautiful as this, angels in their flight must have gazed'.

The best overall view of the Falls, its gorges and surrounding islands is on the 'Flight of Angels', an aerial tour over the chasm by light aircraft, microlight or helicopter. An aerial excursion can be undertaken at your own expense.

On the ground, the Falls can be seen in all their majestic glory from Victoria Falls Park. Airborne or land lubbing, either of these vantage points will provide you with great photography opportunities.

We'll also have the option to do an evening river cruise of some 3 hours with drinks on the Upper (above the Falls) Zambezi River. On the cruise it is possible to see a large variety of animals from the boat.

While at the Fall's we'll have many optional activities available to us, the most famous being white water rafting on the Lower Zambezi. This excursion takes a full day and has 14 rapids, none of which are below grade 4. Videos and still photographs which you may purchase will record the event.

Bungy jumping is also available for all those who wish to throw themselves 111 metres head first off a perfectly good bridge.

Our expedition finishes on day 35.

Finally

This trip dossier and information contained herein has been compiled with care and in good faith. However, it may be subject to change, and DOES NOT form part of a contract between the client, **on the go** and Overland Club, who operate overland expeditions in Africa, on behalf of **on the go**. Please refer to our Booking Conditions at the rear of our Africa brochure, or the copy that was sent to you in conjunction with your BOOKING FORM, which if you have booked, you will already have signed. If you don't have one, we can mail you a copy.

Have a great time in Africa with on the go!