

Great African Expedition Northbound - 57 days

go guide

don't leave home without it



A World Of Discovery



An epic 57 day expedition travelling through South Africa, Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Malawi, Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda, Gorilla trek, spot the Big Five, slide down Sossusvlei dunes, enjoy exotic locales and much much more!



HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS

Trip Highlights

- **South Africa:** The Cederberg Area and the Gariiep River. Cape Town, extend your stay to explore the city.
- **Namibia:** Fish River Canyon, the world's 2nd largest canyon. Namib Naukluft National Park - Sossusvlei & Dune 45 (optional). Etosha National Park, Namibia's finest wildlife sanctuary. Swakopmund, a charming colonial coastal town. Damaraland - Cheetah Park and Spitzkoppe. The lush Kavango region.
- **Botswana:** Chobe National Park, famous for its herds of elephants. Boat cruise

along the Chobe River. Okavango Delta (optional excursion).

- **Zimbabwe:** UNESCO Listed Victoria Falls, one of the natural wonders of the world.
- **Zambia:** Livingstone & Mosi-oa-Tunya National Park, Zambia's gateway to Victoria Falls (optional).
- **Malawi:** Lake Malawi, one of the African Great Lakes, with beautiful beaches, bays and inlets.
- **Zanzibar:** (optional) Pristine beaches & historic Stone Town (UNESCO-listed).
- **Tanzania:** Arusha, the safari gateway. UNESCO Listed Serengeti National Park and Ngorongoro Crater. Views of Mt Meru and Mt Kilimanjaro. Pangani, a historical coastal town. Dar es Salaam, Tanzania's largest city. Mikumi National Park (transit only).
- **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)
- **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.

- Park entry - Lake Naivasha NP. Park entry & game drive - Chobe NP, Etosha NP, Lake Nakuru NP and Masai Mara
- Cheetah feeding
- All road taxes & tolls
- Return ferry to Zanzibar
- Chobe River boat trip

What's Not Included

- Entrance Fees: Gorilla Permit + Transfer US \$575 - 815
- 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

Local Payment

USD \$1270

The local payment is a cost per person which needs to be paid in US Dollars cash only. It is this payment which in part covers the park fees and other inclusions such as meals as detailed under 'what you get'. The local payment also covers your arrival transfer and 1st night's accommodation. Please note that due to exchange rate fluctuations in the US dollar, the local payment amount may be subject to changes. This payment will be collected by your tour leader at the Welcome Meeting on day 1.

DETAILED ITINERARY

Great African Expedition Northbound - 57 days

updated on 24-02-2012

www.onthego.com
uk 020 7371 1113 info@onthego.com
aus 1300 855 684 aus-info@onthego.com
nz 0800 44 77 69 can 1 866 890 7038
usa 1 866 377 6147 sa 0800 982 686

This Go Guide has been compiled with care and good faith. It gives an accurate illustration of the proposed arrangements for this holiday. Circumstances beyond our control such as changes in local conditions, inclement weather or other reasons could force us to make changes to this itinerary. This document does not form part of a contract between the traveller and on the go and their affiliates. Any costs shown are subject to change though are an accurate reflection of costs at time of writing. Please also note that visa requirements are subject to change and are the responsibility of the traveller and not that of on the go



Day 1 : Cape Town

Saturday. Welcome to Cape Town, South Africa! You will be met in the arrivals hall of Cape Town Airport by our representative holding an on the go tours/Africa Travel Company sign and transferred to the Ashanti Lodge - 11 Hof Street, Gardens, Cape Town, Ph (+27-21) 423 8721. At 17.00pm today there is a pre departure meeting today at the lodge, where you will meet your guide and the rest of the group. Your accommodation tonight is in a dormitory, upgrades can be requested upon arrival, subject to availability. **Overnight - Cape Town**

Day 2 : Cederberg Mountains

Cape Town - Cederberg. Leaving Cape Town, we head around Table Bay and continue north through the wheat growing 'bread basket' of South Africa. We cross the Piketberg Pass into the rich fruit growing area along the Olifants River, named for the vast Elephant herds that used to roam in this fertile valley. Our first night is spent in a picturesque campsite with a view of the surrounding wine farms. This afternoon we have the opportunity to sample some of the nectar of the gods after taking a short walk in the surrounding vineyards to explore the exquisite views of the Cederberg Mountains. Tonight we camp under a canvass of stars – the perfect way to begin our African adventure. **Overnight - Cederberg Mountains (L, D)**

Day 3 : Gariep River



Cederberg - Gariep River. From the Cederberg we travel further north through the region known as Namaqualand, well known for its prolific display of Namaqua wildflowers that occur each spring. After stopping for supplies in the small mining town of Springbok, we continue on through the desert area of the Richtersveld to the Gariep River, the natural land border between South Africa and Namibia, where we camp at a beautiful campsite on the South African bank of the river. **Overnight - Gariep River (B, L, D)**

Day 4 : Fish River Canyon

Gariep River - Fish River Canyon (Namibia). This morning we have the option of 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. After lunch we cross into Namibia where, after a short drive, we reach 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. **Overnight - Fish River Canyon (B, L, D)**

Day 5 : Sesriem



Fish River Canyon - Sesriem. An early start today, heading north we enter the area of the Namib-Naukluft desert, one of the oldest in the world. We base ourselves at Sesriem, a good 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. Make sure you look up at the stars tonight; the desert puts on a show like nowhere else in the world! **Overnight - Sesriem (B, L, D)**

Day 6 : Namib Naukluft N.P.

Sesriem - Solitaire. This morning we enter the Namib-Naukluft National Park where we spend the morning exploring this amazing area. View the sunrise from the top of Dune 45 - a truly memorable experience. Following our sunrise experience you will have the option to take the desert shuttles a further 5kms into the desert where you can take a walk to Sossusvlei and explore the surrounding area. An optional guided walk is available at an additional cost. After our leisurely morning exploring the desert and its dunes, we exit the park and head to our next destination, the small settlement of Solitaire; a slice of Apple Crumble from the one and only store is a must for all cake lovers! **Overnight - Solitaire (B, L, D)**

Days 7-9 : Swakopmund



Solitaire - Swakopmund. After breakfast on day 7 we head off in a north-westerly direction to meet the Atlantic Ocean at Walvis Bay. Our drive takes us across the Tropic of Capricorn – the 'imaginary line' that shows the southernmost point of direct sun, and signals the southern hemisphere's mid-

summers day. From Walvis Bay, we follow the coast for some 35 km to arrive at Namibia's prime holiday resort - Swakopmund where we enjoy 3 nights of rest, relaxation and a little bit of adrenalin for those that are keen! Accommodation will be in dormitories for the next 3 nights, upgrades into private rooms are possible, but depend on availability and can be booked with your trip leader.

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! Some of our fellow passengers may leave us in Swakop, to be replaced by new passengers joining us for the rest of our trip.

Optional excursions include 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 Go Guide). **Overnight - Swakopmund (B:3)**

Day 10 : Spitzkoppe

Swakopmund - Spitzkoppe. Our departure from Swakopmund takes us to the 'Matterhorn of Namibia' - Spitzkoppe. The 1728 m high rock formation, one of Namibia's most recognised landmarks, is well known as an ancient San sacred site. The area we camp in is managed by the local community who offer local guides for guided walks to the San Rock Art at an additional cost. Explore the surrounding area and its San rock paintings or simply enjoy the magnificent views. Tonight we bush camp (no ablution facilities) under the African stars.

Overnight - Spitzkoppe (B, L, D)

Day 11 : The Cheetah Park

Spitzkoppe - Cheetah Park. Today's drive takes us further north through the Namibian countryside is to the Cheetah Park - a private farm dedicated to conserving Namibia's cheetah population. While Cheetah are endangered in Africa, Namibia has a high population of wild, free roaming cheetah who cause immense damage to some of the local farms by hunting their livestock. As such, there are many local farmers who have offered a sanctuary to those that have been trapped, or injured. We get to meet the resident cheetahs, a photo opportunity not to be missed! **Overnight - Cheetah Park (B, L, D)**



Days 12-13 : Etosha N.P.



Cheetah Park - Etosha. After stopping briefly in Outjo to stock up on supplies, we head to Etosha National Park. Covering 20 000 km², 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 southern area. Keep an eye out for the striking Oryx and Springbok as these are endemic to desert National Parks! Tonight's camp is situated just outside the parks boundaries, only 10kms from Anderson Gate. Perhaps a quick dip in the pool or a sun downer on the deck before dinner, followed by a relaxing evening in this interesting bar.

The following day we make our way 150 km 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 spend the evening relaxing at our camp in the north of the park, Namutoni. After dinner why not head to the waterhole where you can sit and observe the animals may come to drink in the evenings.

Overnight - Etosha N.P. (B:2, L:2, D:2)

Days 14-15 : Divundu & Maun

Etosha - Divundu - Maun (Botswana). From Etosha, we head in a north-easterly direction toward Namibia's Caprivi Strip, and the lush Kavango region of northern Namibia. We stop at the border town of Rundu for supplies before heading to our spectacular campsite located on the banks of the Kavango River - Watch the sun go down from the deck over the river, but keep a watch for the occasional hippo grazing on the lawn!

Following the Kavango River south, we enter Botswana on day 15 and travel east along the course of the Okavango River to the southern reaches of the Okavango Delta and our destination, Maun. 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 as this 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 to the Delta. **Overnight - Divundu (1), Maun (1)** (B:2, L:2, D:2)

Days 16-17 : Optional Okavango

Maun - Okavango Delta (optional). 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.

Here we have the opportunity to take the optional 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.

For those who'd prefer not to explore The Delta, spend the next 2 days at the lovely campsite relaxing by the swimming pool or challenging each other to a game of volleyball. There is also a crocodile farm nearby that has it's feeding times open to campsite visitors. The driver and cook remain behind in Maun during the excursion.

Enjoy rest, relaxation and Delta experiences on day 17. 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. **Overnight - Maun OR optional Okavango Delta** (B:2, L:2, D:2)

Day 18 : 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** (B, L, D)

Days 19-20 : Chobe N. P.

Maun - Chobe. We travel east and then north to the town of Kasane where we set up camp 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. Elephant, hippo and many bird species can be viewed from the boat while we watch another glorious African sunset. Listen out for the resident hippos!

The next morning we have a chance to sleep in or explore the town of Kasane. After lunch, we take a boat cruise along the Chobe River. Once we return and 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!

Please Note: Should we not be able to stay in Chobe National Park due to lack of availability at the bush camp, this excursion will be replaced with an overnight trip in the bushveld of the Lesoma Valley which is situated in the Kasane Forest Reserve adjacent to the Chobe NP and the Matsetsi Game area of Zimbabwe. Lesoma is equally rich in wildlife and affords a similar experience to the above. **Overnight - Kasane (1), Chobe (1)** (B:2, L:2, D:2)

Days 21-23 : 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. Once we have returned 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.

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 trip.

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 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. **Overnight - Victoria Falls** (B:3)

Days 24-25 : Chobe N. P.

Victoria Falls - Chobe (Botswana) - Livingstone (Zambia). We head out from Victoria Falls to the border crossing to Botswana. Once we've completed the border formalities, we continue back to the town of Kasane, situated on the banks of the Chobe River. Here we have the opportunity again 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 25 instead.

Returning to the camp at Kasane the following morning, we get back on our truck and continue to the town of Livingstone in Zambia. This afternoon we have the opportunity to view The Falls from the Mosi-oa-Tunya National Park, Zambia or partake in a sunset boat cruise on the Zambezi River. Another fantastic photo opportunity! **Overnight - Chobe N. P.** (B:2, L:1, D:2)

Day 26 : Lusaka



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

Day 27 : Chipata

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

Days 28-31 : Lake Malawi Beaches



Chipata - Lake Malawi (Malawi). Leaving Zambia we cross into Malawi, the 'Warm Heart of Africa'. We stop off in the capital, Lilongwe, a small city

distinctively divided into the old town and the new administrative centre. Malawi is a landlocked country with 20% of its total area made up of beautiful Lake Malawi. We camp first at the central Lake, and then in the northern area over the next 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. Malawi's temperate climate allows for swimming in the clear blue freshwater 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). **Overnight - Lake Malawi** (B:4, L:4, D:4)

Day 32 : Iringa

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

Day 33 : Dar es Salaam

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

Days 34-36 : Zanzibar



Dar es Salaam - Zanzibar (optional). 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.

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 Go Guide for more details.

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.

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. **Overnight - Dar es Salaam (3) OR optional Zanzibar (3) (B:1)**

Days 37-38 : Dar es Salaam & Arusha

Zanzibar - Dar es Salaam - Arusha. Leaving Zanzibar in the afternoon on day 37, 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.

From Dar es Salaam we have a long day's drive through vast sisal plantations and African bushveld to Arusha on day 38. On the way, we pass The Pare and Usambara Mountain ranges before driving through the town of Moshi. Moshi is the base for Mount Kilimanjaro climbing expeditions and weather permitting; we may even catch a glimpse of this magical mountain's snowy summit - a photo opportunity not to be missed! Tonight we stay at a campsite in Meserani on the outskirts of Arusha, before heading out on our Optional Excursions to the Serengeti and Ngorongoro Crater tomorrow. **Overnight - Dar es Salaam (1), Arusha (1) (B:1, L:1, D:2)**

Days 39-41 : Optional Serengeti & Ngorongoro



Arusha - Serengeti & Ngorongoro - optional. Arusha is a pleasant town situated at the base of Mount Meru, and is the starting point for safaris into the Serengeti, Tarangire and Lake Manyara National Parks, and the Ngorongoro Conservation Area. This morning we have the opportunity to explore this thriving town while we stock up on provisions needed for our excursion. You may choose to wander the vibrant craft markets, stock up on supplies or perhaps catch up on the news back home at one of the small internet cafe available. Heading back to our base camp, Meserani Snake Park, those that are participating in the optional excursions to Ngorongoro Crater and Serengeti National Park can start to prepare for their departure this afternoon. The excursion is offered by a local Tanzanian operator who conducts the trip into the Parks in 4WD vehicles (In peak season, there may be a minivan or bus transfer to Karatu), which are adapted for safari use.

For those not opting to visit the Ngorongoro Crater or Serengeti National Park, the next 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 driver and cook remain behind in Dar es Salaam during the excursion.

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.

After our game drive in the Crater, we continue 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 bush camp (no ablutions) in the wild surrounded by the sounds of the African wilderness. In the morning, we head off for another game drive and explore the landscape in search of the resident wildlife. With some luck, we may see some of Africa's 'Big 5'!

After our morning drive, we head back across the plains and the lush Crater rim to our truck at Arusha, where we spend the evening musing over our thrilling wildlife experience. **Overnight - Arusha (4), OR optional Karatu & Serengeti (B:3, L:3, D:3)**

Days 42-43 : Nairobi

Arusha - Nairobi (Kenya). We set off early this morning and make our way to the Tanzania/Kenyan border and the small border town of Namanga. After completing the border formalities, we continue on our journey to the capital city Nairobi and our campsite on the outskirts of the city. Acacia Camp Nairobi is ideally situated right next to the Nairobi National Park, and is close to the giraffe sanctuary and elephant orphanage. The famous Carnivore Restaurant is also in close proximity.

The following day is free to spend at leisure or to enjoy some of the many options available in this bustling city; visit The David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust, where you can view the orphaned baby Elephants at feeding time, heading o to the Giraffe Centre in Langata, if you haven't had your fill of game viewing, then Nairobi National Park offers some great day trips or if you haven't quite got all those souvenirs you wanted, take a "Matatu" to the local curio markets close by the campsite. This evening why not try the fair on offer at the famous Carnivores restaurant. **Overnight - Nairobi (B:1, L:2, D:2)**

Days 44-45 : Masai Mara N.P.



Nairobi - Masai Mara. 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.

The next morning 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".
Overnight - Masai Mara N.P. (B:2, L:2, D:2)

Days 46-47 : Kampala

Masai Mara - Kisumu - Kampala (Uganda). 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 Kisumu - Kenya's harbour town on the banks of Africa's largest lake, Lake Victoria. We replenish our supplies and overnight here.

The next morning, we cross the border into Uganda where we overnight it 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.
Overnight - Kisumu (1), Kampala (1) (B:2, L:2, D:2)

Days 48-51 : Lake Bunyoni & Gorilla Trekking



Kampala - Lake Bunyoni, 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 at US \$500. There is a local transport & handling fee of US\$65 to US\$70 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 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.
Overnight - Lake Bunyoni (B:4, L:4, D:4)

Day 52 : Kampala

Lake Bunyoni - Kampala. 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!
Overnight - Kampala (B, L, D)

Day 53 : Jinja



Kampala - Jinja. 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.
Overnight - Jinja (B, L, D)

Day 54 : Lake Nakuru

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

Days 55-56 : Lake Naivasha

Lake Nakuru - Lake Naivasha. In the morning on day 54 we begin our exploration of the Lake Nakuru National Park - famous for the thousands of lesser and greater flamingos that flock to this soda lake's edge. The numbers vary depending on the water level, and when it's low, the lake almost turns pink. A truly spectacular sight! The park was established as a sanctuary for black and white rhino, which are often seen. We spend the



day searching for these pre-historic looking beasts as well as the elusive leopard, encountering buffalo, giraffe, various antelope and the occasional hippo along the way. After our game drive, we head to Lake Naivasha arriving in the late afternoon. 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 next 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. **Overnight - Lake Naivasha** (B:2, L:2, D:2)

Day 57 : Nairobi

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

Masai Mara Bonus Trip

When you book this trip, you are entitled to receive a BONUS Masai Mara Safari after your trip ends. A Local Payment of US\$235 is applicable for this trip. This offer must be taken up at the same time you book this trip.

Includes: Return transfer from Nairobi, 1 night Acacia Camp Nairobi (dorm accommodation, shared facilities), 2 nights at Acacia Camp Masai Mara (camping), a full day exploring the Masai Mara on day 2, 2 breakfasts, 1 lunch and 1 dinner.

This safari must be booked at the same time your main trip.

Starts Saturday, ends Tuesday.

There is a pre departure meeting for this trip at Acacia Camp Nairobi at 17:00 on Saturday.

Please contact us for more details. Conditions apply.

Please Note

This expedition is run in conjunction with Africa Travel Company.

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.

For booking purposes please notify our office as soon as possible should you choose not to trek the Mountain Gorillas.

Things To Bring

- A sleeping bag and roll mat
- For extra comfort, bring a travel pillow

- Spare camera batteries/film and dustbag
- Mosquito spray (with active DEET ingredient)
- Your own personal first aid kit
- A torch
- A small daypack for your day-to-day needs.
- Antibacterial wipes
- A photocopy of your passport data pages
- Your Yellow Fever Vaccination Certificate
- Your travel insurance policy details
- Hat, sunglasses & sunscreen
- Warm clothing - raincoat, warm hat, socks etc as across Africa wet/dry and hot/cool climatic periods change invariably.

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

Passports & Visas

Please ensure that you have at least two blank pages in your passport, plus an additional blank page for each visa/African country you are visiting. If travelling on one of our longer overland safaris we recommend that you have at least 12 blank pages in your passport.

Please also note that your passport must be valid for a minimum of six months from the end date of your trip.

Any visa information provided in this document is for general guidance purposes only, visa requirements and fees are subject to change. It is essential that you check current entry requirements with each relevant embassy/consulate prior to departure. Visa procurement is the responsibility of the traveller and not of On The Go.

Botswana Country Guide

Visa

UK, Ireland, Australian, New Zealand, USA, Canadian and South African citizens do not require a visa for entrance into Botswana.

The few countries that do require visas; mostly Eastern European and Asian Nationals, need to obtain them prior to arrival at the border. Visas are not issued at Botswana ports of entry, if you arrive without a visa, immigration officials will refuse you entry to Botswana.

Vaccinations

You should seek medical advice before travelling to Botswana from your local health practitioner and ensure that all you receive all of the appropriate vaccinations. Typically the list includes typhoid, tetanus, polio, hepatitis A and B (for stays over 4 weeks) and meningitis.

A yellow fever vaccination certificate is required from travellers arriving from infected areas or who were in transit through infected areas (unless they remained onboard or at the airport).

Certain areas of Botswana have a risk of malaria and these are; northern parts and southern provinces of the country and the Okavango

Delta area – if travelling to these regions we strongly recommend that you take your anti-malaria medication. Adequate measures to avoid mosquito bites, such as nets and creams and covering up after sundown, are also essential.

Currency & Banking

USD 1 = BWP 7.4 GBP 1 = 11.7 EURO 1 = 10.2 AUD 1 = 7.6

Subject to fluctuation.

The currency of Botswana is the Botswana Pulas (BWP) 1 Pula = 100 Thebe. Notes are in denominations of BWP10, 20, 50 and 100.

Coins are in denominations of BWP1, 50, 25, 10, 5, 1.

There are no restrictions on the import of local or foreign currencies, provided they are declared on arrival. Export of local currency is limited to BWP50 and foreign currencies up to the amount declared on arrival. It is easy to change most forms of currency including US\$, GB£, Euros and South African Rand. The best place to change money in Botswana is the bureau de changes as banks charge commission to change either cash or travellers cheques. ATMs are available in all main towns, cities, shopping centres and most petrol stations. MasterCard, Visa, American Express and Diners Club are all widely accepted.

Travellers cheques should be in US Dollars or Pound Sterling to avoid additional exchange rate charges. Proof of identity may be requested in some instances, so it's useful to carry a passport or some form of photo identification. In large cities travellers cheques can incur a high surcharge.

Banking hours: Mon-Fri 0900-1530, Sat 0830-1100.

Time & Voltage

Time Zone - Botswana is 2 hours ahead of GMT. Daylight saving time is not observed.

The standard voltage is 220 - 240V. Primary sockets require a 'Type M' - South African, electrical plug which has three thick circular pins. You will need a voltage converter, and plug adapter in order to use U.S. appliances.

Climate

Botswana's climate is mainly temperate. During the summer months (October-April) the weather can be very hot with daytime temperatures of around 30 Celsius and higher. The rainy season (typically lasting from January to March) can be hot with temperatures still in the mid 30's and only dropping to around the mid 20's overnight. Winter (May-September) brings a cool change yet is still reasonably warm and mostly pleasant with an average temperature of around 25°C. Early mornings and evenings may be cold and frosty especially in the Kalahari region. The amount of rainfall decreases the further you travel west or southwards during the winter and rainy season months.



Kenya Country Guide

Visas

UK, Irish, Australian, New Zealand, USA, Canadian and RSA citizens require a visa for Kenya. Visas can be obtained by most nationalities upon arrival at the airport, however it is advisable to procure your visa from the nearest Kenyan Embassy/High Commission prior to departure. There are often very long visa queues at the airport.

For most nationalities a single entry visa currently costs US \$50 and is valid for a period of three months and a multiple entry visa is US \$110. At the airport the visa fee must be paid in a convertible currency (eg US Dollars). All passengers require an onward/return tickets and sufficient funds for length of intended stay (at least US\$500).

Vaccinations

You should seek medical advice before travelling to Kenya from your local health practitioner and ensure that all you receive all of the appropriate vaccinations. As a guide diphtheria, hepatitis A, polio, tetanus and typhoid vaccinations are strongly recommended.

Kenya is affected by malaria – we strongly recommend that you take anti-malaria medication. Take your medication exactly as it's prescribed and directed, don't skip any medication! Adequate measures to avoid mosquito bites include: insect repellent, sleeping under a mosquito net and wearing long sleeve clothing and long trousers in the evenings.

A Yellow Fever Certificate of Vaccination is required if arriving from an infected area and travellers arriving from non-endemic zones should note that vaccination is strongly recommended for travel outside the urban areas, even if an outbreak of the disease has not been reported.

Time & Voltage

Kenya is 3 hours ahead of GMT. Daylight saving time is not observed.

In Kenya the standard voltage is 220-240V. Primary sockets require a "Type G" - British BS-1363 type, three pin plug. You will need a voltage converter, and plug adapter in order to use U.S. appliances. We recommend packing a universal adapter.

Currency

USD 1 = KES 100 GBP 1 = 158 EURO 1 = 137 AUD 1 = 102

Subject to fluctuation. Kenyan Shilling (code KES, symbol KSh).

1 KSh = 100 cents.

Notes are in denominations of: KSh1,000, 500, 200, 100 and 50.

Coins are in denominations of KSh20, 10 and 5.

Banking hours: Mon-Fri 0900-1500, Sat 0900-1100. You can exchange money in banks or bureau de changes. Be aware that old pre-2003 US\$ banknotes or torn or marked banknotes are

difficult to exchange in Africa so make sure you take crisp new notes! In major towns/cities most banks have an ATM. American Express, Diners Club, MasterCard and Visa cards are all widely accepted.

Travellers cheques can be changed at banks, these should be in US Dollars or Pound Sterling to avoid additional exchange rate charges. Most banks will want to see your passport and proof of purchase receipt before cashing your travellers cheques. Please Note: Travellers cheques can be difficult to cash and often have restrictions of about US \$100 a day maximum. They also tend to attract high commission charges, especially when exchanging for hard currency.

Climate

Kenya is an excellent year round destination with a favourable climate and reasonably low rainfall. In general the hottest months are December to March, although the climate varies enormously from place to place. The lowland coastal areas are tropical, with year round high temperatures and humidity, which is at its peak in April and May, although tempered by monsoon winds. The highlands are more temperate with four seasons. Nairobi has a very pleasant climate throughout the year due to its altitude. Near Lake Victoria, the temperatures are much higher and rainfall can be heavy.

Malawi Country Guide

Visas

Most nationalities including UK, Ireland, Australian, New Zealand, USA, Canadian and South African citizens do not require a visa for entrance into Malawi.

The few countries that do require visas need to obtain them prior to arrival at the border, visas are not issued at Malawi ports of entry. Therefore please check current entry requirements with your Malawi Embassy prior to departure.

Vaccinations

Seek advice from your doctor or travel clinic at least six weeks prior to departure about what vaccinations you require. Typically the list includes typhoid, tetanus, polio, hepatitis A and B and meningitis.

A malaria risk exists throughout the country, we strongly recommend that you take anti-malaria medication.

A Yellow Fever Vaccination Certificate is required from travellers over one year of age coming from infected areas.

Currency

USD 1 = 165 GBP 1 = 263 EURO 1 = 229 AUD 1 = 172

Subject to fluctuation.

The currency of Malawi is the Malawian Kwacha (MWK, symbol MK).

1 MWK = 100 tambala.

Notes are in denominations of Mk500, 200, 100, 50, 20, 10 and 5.

Coins are in denominations of Mk1 and 20, 10, 5, 2 and 1 tambala.

On arrival in Lilongwe you will be able to convert money into MKW. The bureau de changes are the easiest place to change money, and US\$ and GB £ are accepted in both cash and travellers cheque format. Travellers cheques attract a commission charge and a lower exchange rate than cash, which is changed with no commission.

If coming south from Tanzania, MKW can be purchased on the border using US\$ cash. ATMs are effectively non-existent for foreign cards in Malawi.

Time & Voltage

Time Zone - Malawi is 2 hours ahead of GMT. Daylight saving time is not observed

Standard voltage is 220-240V. Electrical sockets in Malawi are the "Type G" British BS-1363 type. You will need a voltage converter, and plug adapter in order to use U.S. appliances

Climate

There are three seasons in Malawi. The rainy season extends from November to April, the cool season from May to July and the dry season from August to October. Temperatures and rainfall are greatly influenced by Lake Malawi and altitude, which varies from 37 metres (in the Lower Shire Valley) to 3050 metres (Mount Mulanje). Along the lakeshore, the mean annual temperature is 24°C, and humidity can be high during the rainy season.

Namibia Country Guide

Visas

UK, Ireland, Australian, New Zealand, USA, Canadian and South African citizens do not require a visa for stays of up to 90 days in Namibia.

Very few countries require Namibian visas. Those that do require a visa must obtain it prior to departure. Visas are not issued at Namibia ports of entry, if you arrive without a visa, immigration officials will refuse you entry to Namibia.

Health & Vaccinations

You should seek medical advice 6 weeks before travelling to Namibia from your local health practitioner and ensure that all you receive all of the appropriate vaccinations. As a guideline tetanus, typhoid, diphtheria, polio, hepatitis A, hepatitis B are usually recommended.

A yellow fever vaccination certificate is required from travellers over one year of age arriving from infected areas or who were in transit through infected areas (unless they remained on-board or at the airport).



There is a low malaria risk in the north eastern region of Namibia, although if travelling on one of our overland tours, the countries north of Namibia have a high malaria risk, therefore we strongly recommend that you take anti-malaria medication. Precautionary measures to take to prevent contact with mosquitoes include: insect repellent, cover up at sundown, sleep under a mosquito net and wear long sleeve clothing and long trousers in the evenings.

Tap water in Namibia is considered safe to drink in all larger cities, outside main cities it is advisable to check first. Hospital facilities are generally very good in towns and cities but in rural regions medical facilities are limited.

Currency

USD 1 = 8.1 GBP 1 = 12.8 EURO 1 = 11.1 AUD 1 = 8.3

Subject to fluctuation.

The currency of Namibia is the Namibian Dollar (\$NAD) 1 \$NAD = 100 cents. Notes are in denominations of \$NAD10, 20, 50, 100 and 200. Coins are in denominations of 5, 10, 50, \$NAD1, \$NAD5.

It is possible to change money and use ATMs in all sizeable towns. Bureau de Changes offer quicker and commission free service but are only found in Swakopmund and Windhoek. ATMs are widely accessible and very reliable and offer the best rates of exchange for cards.

The Rand and Namibian dollar are tied to each other on an equal level and as such the Rand and Namibian dollar can be used interchangeably in Namibia. However Namibian dollars are not accepted in South Africa.

All unused Namibian Dollars need to be exchanged to South African Rand before leaving Namibia. The Rand can then be used in Botswana or South Africa. Namibian Dollars can be changed to Rand at banks and bureau de changes and swapped over in some shops.

Banking hours: 09:00 to 15:30. Some close between 13:00 and 14:00

Time & Voltage

Time Zone - Namibia is 2 hours ahead of GMT. Daylight saving time is not observed.

Standard voltage in Namibia is 220 - 230V. Primary sockets require a 'Type M' - South African, electrical plug which has three thick circular pins. You will need a voltage converter, and plug adapter in order to use U.S. appliances.

Climate

Namibia's climate is typical of a semi-desert region, with hot days and cool nights. Namibia is blessed with an average of 300 days of sunshine a year. Temperatures are cooler along the coast and on the central plateau. Rainfall is typically low in Namibia and normally only occurs during the summer months from December to March, mostly in the form of heavy thunderstorms. During the

winter months from May to September days are typically warm but temperatures can drop below freezing at night.

Tanzania Country Guide

Visas

UK, Irish, Australian, New Zealand, USA, Canadian and RSA citizens require a visa for Tanzania. A single entry visas can be obtained by most nationalities upon arrival at Dar es Salaam, Kilimanjaro and Zanzibar Airport or at Namanga border crossing point, between Tanzania and Kenya. The current visa cost is US\$50 for all nationalities, which can be paid in US\$, GB£ or Euro cash. The three East African countries of Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda have an agreement that you can travel freely between these countries and do not have to get another visa when returning to each. If you exit this region and enter any other country, including Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo, you will need to get new visas to re enter Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda.

Vaccinations

Seek advice from your doctor or travel clinic at least six weeks prior to departure about what vaccinations you require. Typically the list includes typhoid, tetanus, polio, hepatitis A and B (for stays over 4 weeks) and meningitis.

A malarial risk exists throughout Tanzania – we strongly recommend that you take your anti-malaria medication. Precautionary measures to take to prevent contact with mosquitoes include: insect repellent, cover up at sundown, sleep under a mosquito net and wear long sleeve clothing and long trousers in the evenings.

A Yellow Fever International Certificate of Vaccination is required from travellers over one, arriving from countries infected with yellow fever or who were in transit through infected areas (unless they remained onboard or at the airport); this is particularly relevant if traveling from neighbouring African countries. If visiting Zanzibar from mainland Tanzania, a yellow fever certificate must be produced to gain entry.

Currency

USD 1 = TZS 1717 GBP 1 = 2710 EURO 1 = 2370 AUD 1 = 1762

Subject to fluctuation. Tanzanian Shilling (code TZS, symbol TSh). 1 TSh = 100 cents. Notes are in denominations of TSh10,000, 5000, 2,000, 1,000 and 500. Coins are in denominations of TSh200, 100, 50, 20 and 10.

The Tanzanian Shilling is non exportable or importable. You can exchange US Dollars, Pound Sterling or Euro cash at bureaux de changes or banks in larger towns/cities. Cash is changed with no commission. Exchange rates vary depending upon the denomination of the note that you want to change and generally smaller notes attract a lower exchange rate than high ones. Be aware that

old pre-2003 US\$ banknotes or torn or marked banknotes are difficult to exchange in Africa so make sure you take crisp new notes. Alternatively most large towns/cities have an ATM where cash can be withdrawn using Visa or MasterCard. Credit cards are very rarely accepted for making purchases.

Banking hours: Mon-Fri 0830-1230; Sat 0830-1300. Bureaux de change have longer hours and in the cities open on Sundays.

Travellers cheques are more difficult to change and require proof of purchase and often have restrictions of about US\$100 a day maximum. Please note that there is a surcharge when paying by travellers cheques.

Time & Voltage

Tanzania Time Zone - 3 hours ahead of GMT. Daylight saving time is not observed.

Standard voltage is 220-240V. Primary sockets require a Type G British BS-1363 or Type D Indian BS-546 type, three pin plug. You will need a voltage converter, and plug adapter in order to use U.S. appliances. We recommend getting a universal adapter.

Climate

Tanzania is sunny and tropical (accept in the mountain regions). Given the sheer size of the country, the climate varies dramatically in different regions. In coastal regions and on the islands of Zanzibar and Pemba it is hot and humid year-round with higher rainfall, whilst inland, the central plateau is dry and hot and the north-western highlands are cooler. The long rains occur between mid-March and the end of May and there are also short, lighter rains during November and December. The driest months are June to October.

Uganda Country Guide

Visa

UK, Irish, Australian, New Zealand, USA, Canadian and RSA citizens require a visa for Uganda. This can be obtained upon arrival at all entry and exit points. Currently a 3 month single entry visa costs - US\$50.

Vaccinations

You should seek medical advice before travelling to Uganda from your local health practitioner and ensure that all you receive all of the appropriate vaccinations. As a guide diphtheria, hepatitis A, polio, tetanus and typhoid are strongly recommended. Meningitis and hepatitis B are sometimes recommended.

A Yellow Fever Certificate of Vaccination is required if arriving from an infected area and vaccination recommended for all travellers visiting endemic areas.



Uganda is affected by malaria – we strongly recommend that you take anti-malaria medication. Adequate measures to avoid mosquito bites include: insect repellent, sleeping under a mosquito net and wearing long sleeve clothing and long trousers in the evenings.

Currency

USD 1 = 2825 GBP 1 = 4502 EURO 1 = 3920 AUD 1 = 2925

Uganda Shilling (UGX).

Notes are in denominations of UGX50,000, 20,000, 10,000, 5,000 and 1,000. Coins are in denominations of UGX500, 200, 100, 50, 20, 10, 5, 2 and 1.

The import and export of local currency is prohibited. It is possible to change money and use ATMs in large cities. Please note that travellers cheques are not widely accepted and can only be exchanged in Kampala.

Time & Voltage

Uganda is 3 hours ahead of GMT. Daylight saving time is not observed.

In Uganda the standard voltage is 240V. Primary sockets require a 'Type G' - British BS-1363 type, three pin plug. You will need a voltage converter, and plug adapter in order to use U.S. appliances. We recommend packing a universal adapter.

Climate

Despite being located on the Equator, Uganda is rather temperate, with the lowlands remaining warm year round and temperatures averaging around 26°C. In the mountain regions, due to the high altitude, it is much cooler. The climate in Uganda is tropical and the country has two main wet and dry seasons; it is typically dry from December to February and June to August, and wet from March to May and October to November.

Gorilla Permits

Gorilla trekking is a wonderful experience, allowing you the opportunity to have a close encounter with these gentle giants of the jungle in their natural habitat. The trekking will take place either in Uganda, Rwanda or Democratic Republic of Congo - depending on local conditions and the availability of the gorilla permits.

The cost and availability of gorilla permits varies by country and park. Current permits cost US\$500, although the Rwandan government is increasing the cost of their permits to US\$750 from 01 June 2012 onwards. There is also an additional booking & transfer fee of up to U\$75. You will also need to budget for visa fees (costs vary) and to renew your Kenyan and Ugandan visa upon re-entry should we have to go to Rwanda or DR Congo. The government often increases the permit and transfer costs without notice, so we ask that you budget for the highest amount, so that you don't suddenly have to find additional money to partake in this wonderful experience. We recommend you budget

a total of US\$750 or US\$1000 if trekking from 01 June 2012 onwards.

The reason that we don't include the gorilla trekking excursion in our Gorilla Safaris is because it is offered by a local operator and they are unable to confirm these prices and availability of permits. If we did, we'd have to make allowances for the government's unexpected price increases, and, possibly, charge our passengers far more than the price of the actual permit. This way you get to pay the correct price for the permit.

The reason that the permits are so costly is because each park only issues 10 permits per gorilla family per day, so as to ensure that the gorilla's exposure to humans is limited. 100% of the gorilla permit cost is used to by the government to continue in the excellent work they do in protecting and promoting these wonderful animals.

On The Go are not in control of the price of gorilla permits and therefore cannot be held responsible for any increase in fees.

South Africa Country Guide

Visas

UK, Australian, New Zealand, USA and Canadian citizens do not require a tourist visa for South Africa for stays of up to 90 days.

Very few nationalities require South African visas prior to entry into the country. Most nationalities are able to get an entry stamp at the border on entering South Africa. Please contact your local South African embassy to find out if you require a visa prior to entering SA. If you are subject to visa requirements, you must apply and receive your visa before your departure for South Africa, visas are not issued at South African ports of entry.

Health & Vaccinations

You should seek medical advice before travelling to South Africa from your local health practitioner and ensure that all you receive all of the appropriate vaccinations. As a guide tetanus, diphtheria, polio, hepatitis A (for stays over 4 weeks) and hepatitis B (for stays over 3 months) are recommended.

A yellow fever vaccination certificate is required from travellers over one, coming from infected areas.

A low malaria risk occurs in northern parts of Mpumalanga (as well as Kruger National park, northern and northeastern parts of KwaZulu-Natal). If travelling to these regions and/or the countries north of South Africa, where there is a high malaria risk, we strongly recommend that you take anti-malaria medication. Precautionary measures to take to prevent contact with mosquitoes include: insect repellent, cover up at sundown, sleep under a mosquito net and wear long sleeve clothing and long trousers in the evenings.

Tap water in South Africa is considered safe to drink in all urban areas and most rural areas. There are exceptions, such as in parts of the Kruger

National Park, and in areas near the Namibian border, including the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park. These areas – and most others where the water's not drinkable – are well-marked with signs.

Hospital facilities are generally very good in towns and cities but in rural regions medical facilities are limited.

Currency

USD 1 = ZAR 8.3 GBP 1 = 13 EURO 1 = 11.3 AUD 1 = 8.4

Subject to fluctuation. South African currency is Rand (ZAR; symbol R)

1 Rand = 100 cents. Notes are in denominations of R200, 100, 50, 20 and 10. Coins are in denominations of R5, 2 and 1, and 50, 20, 10 and 5 cents.

Obtaining local currency within South Africa is very easy. ATMs are widely accessible and very reliable and offer the best rates of exchange. International credit cards are accepted in almost all shops, restaurants, hotels and game reserves.

Bureau de changes offer a quick and commission free service but are only found in the main centres such as Cape Town and Johannesburg. Travellers cheques can be changed at banks. These should be in US Dollars or Pound Sterling to avoid additional exchange rate charges. Please note that proof of identity may be requested in some instances, so it's useful to carry a passport or some form of photo identification. Travellers cheques can be difficult to exchange and tend to attract high commission fees.

Banking hours: Mon-Fri 0900-1530, Sat 0830-1100.

Rand can be used in Botswana, Namibia and South Africa, so if you are travelling on one of our overland safaris ample money for these three countries can be obtained prior to beginning your trip in Cape Town or Johannesburg. The Rand and Namibian dollar are tied to each other on an equal level and can be used interchangeably in Namibia. The Rand can also be easily converted to Pula in Botswana at good rates.

Time & Voltage

Time Zone - South Africa is 2 hours ahead of GMT. Daylight saving time is not observed

Standard voltage is 220-230V. Primary sockets require a 'Type M' - South African, electrical plug which has three thick circular pins. You will need a voltage converter, and plug adapter in order to use U.S. appliances.

Climate

Climatic conditions generally range from Mediterranean in the south western corner of the country to temperate in the interior plateau, and subtropical in the northeast. A small area in the northwest has a desert climate. Most of the country has warm, sunny days and cool nights. Rainfall generally occurs during summer (November-March), although in the southwest,



around Cape Town, rainfall occurs in winter (from June-August). Temperatures are influenced by variations in elevation, terrain, and ocean currents.

Zambia Country Guide

Visas

UK, Australian, New Zealand, USA, Canadian citizens require a visa for Zambia. Visas can be obtained by most nationalities upon arrival at the airport/border. A single entry visa currently costs US \$50 and a double/multiple entry costs \$80. Irish and South African passport holders do not require a visa.

Vaccinations

You should seek medical advice before travelling to Zambia from your local health practitioner and ensure that all you receive all of the appropriate vaccinations. As a guide Tetanus, diphtheria, polio, hepatitis A and hepatitis B (for stays over 4 weeks) are strongly recommended.

Zambia has a malaria risk throughout the year in the whole country, therefore we strongly recommend that you take anti-malaria medication.

The yellow fever vaccination is required for passengers travelling to and from Zambia. All in-transit passengers travelling between Zambia and South Africa, irrespective of the time period in transit, will also be required to present their Yellow Fever Vaccination Certificate.

Currency

USD 1 = 4965 GBP 1 = 7894 EURO 1 = 6850 AUD 1 = 5110

Subject to fluctuation. Zambia's currency is the Zambia Kwacha (ZMK)

Notes are in denominations of ZMK50,000, 20,000, 10,000, 5,000, 1,000, 500, 100, 50 and 20. Coins are in denominations of ZMK10, 5 and 1, and 50 and 25 ngwee.

Banking hours vary but most are open from Mon - Fri 0815-1430

ATMs are available at Standard Chartered and Barclays Bank which accept Visa. Most large stores and hotels accept credit cards.

If travelling on one of our overland safaris there is no real need to convert any of your money to ZMK, as you will only be in Zambia for a short period of time. Campsites readily accept US\$ cash for food and beverages.

Time & Voltage

Time Zone - Zambia is 2 hours ahead of GMT. Daylight saving time is not observed.

Standard voltage is 230V. Zambia has several varieties of electrical sockets. The 3 primary sockets are 'Type C' - European, 'Type D' - Indian and 'Type G' - British. You will need a voltage converter and plug adapter in order to use U.S. appliances.

Climate

Zambia is warm all year round, but has three distinct seasons. Between December and April the weather is hot and wet; from May to August it is cooler and dry; between September and November conditions are hot and dry. Average summer temperatures range between 25°C to 35°C, while in winter they can fall as low as 6°C at night, although daytime temperatures average 24°C.

Zimbabwe Country Guide

Visas

UK, Ireland, Australian, New Zealand, USA and Canadian passport holders require a visa to enter Zimbabwe, these visas are available at the border for the following costs: Australian, New Zealand and US citizens: US\$30 single/\$45 double entry visa. British and Irish is US\$55 single/\$70 double. Canadians can only obtain a single entry visa at the border for US \$75. South African passport holders can obtain a visa for free. Visas can be brought using post 2003 US\$ notes, GB£ or South African Rand.

Vaccinations

Seek advice from your doctor or travel clinic at least six weeks prior to departure about what vaccinations you require. Typically the list includes typhoid, tetanus, diphtheria, polio, hepatitis A and B (for stays over 4 weeks).

In Zimbabwe a malarial risk exists from November to June in all areas below 1200m and throughout the year in the Zambezi Valley. We strongly recommend that you take your anti-malaria medication. Other precautionary measures to prevent contact with mosquitoes include: insect repellent, cover up at sundown, sleep under a mosquito net and wear long sleeve clothing and long trousers in the evenings.

Yellow fever: A yellow fever vaccination certificate is required from travellers over one year of age coming from infected areas.

Currency

The Zimbabwean Dollar was abandoned in April 2009. The country has adopted a multi-currency scheme; the US Dollar and South African Rand can be used for domestic transactions.

Banking hours: Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri - 0800-1500, Wed 0800-1300 and Sat - 0800-1130. In major towns/cities most banks have an ATM. American Express, Diners Club and Visa cards are widely accepted. Major foreign currencies can be exchanged at bureaux de change and banks at the official exchange rate.

Travellers cheques are accepted at banks, these should be in US Dollars or Pound Sterling to avoid additional exchange rate charges. Most banks will want to see your passport and proof of purchase receipt before cashing your travellers cheques. Please Note: Travellers cheques can be difficult to

cash so do not rely upon them as your sole source of funds.

Time & Voltage

Standard voltage is 220-240V. Primary sockets require a 'Type G' - British plug, or 'Type D' - old English plug or Indian plug. You will need a voltage converter and plug adapter in order to use U.S. appliances.

Zimbabwe is 2 hours ahead of GMT. Daylight saving time is not observed.

Climate

Although located in the tropics, temperate conditions prevail all year round in Zimbabwe as the climate is moderated by altitude and the inland position of the country.

Zimbabwe has a rainy season from November/December to March, during this time days are hot and sunny with possible afternoon thunderstorms. By April and May most of the rain is gone, skies are clear and days are sunny and warm. Night time temperatures drop dramatically between June and August although daytime temperatures remain pleasantly warm. Late August sees the start of the hot and dry season which continues until October.

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

We offer a number of locally operated optional activities and excursions on each of our expeditions. We feel that offering optional excursions affords a greater degree of flexibility, independence and choice to our travellers. To help you budget, below is a selection of optional excursions available on this trip.

Please note the following:

All prices are in US Dollars and are subject to change. Where activities occur away from your base, there may be an additional transfer cost.

Travellers cheques may be accepted for the Serengeti/Ngorongoro Excursions, although they are subject to a surcharge of at least 5%.

All accommodation and activities in Victoria Falls must be paid for in US\$ cash (GBP & ZAR also accepted at a lower rate).

All optional excursions are offered by 3rd parties and independently of on the go. They are undertaken at your own risk and on the go take no responsibility for personal loss/injury caused.

Gorilla Trekking - the price varies dependant on where gorilla trek takes place ie Uganda, DRC or Rwanda.

Botswana

3 day Okavango Delta Excursion US \$160
Chobe National Park Game Drive US \$40
Scenic Flight Over Okavango (5 per plane) US \$85



Kenya

Crescent Island US \$25
 Elsamere Visit, home of Joy Adamson US \$15
 Giraffe Centre. Pre/Post tour US \$20
 Hells Gate National Park US \$50
 Masai Hot Air Balloon US \$450
 Masai Village Cultural Visit US \$10
 Masai Warrior Dancing US \$6
 Nairobi National Park half day. Pre/Post tour US \$85
 Naivasha Boat Hire (max 7 pax) US \$55
 Naivasha Horse Riding per hour US \$20

Malawi

Fresh Water Diving at Kande Beach US \$45
 Full Day Snorkelling US \$20
 Horse Riding 2 - 3 hours US \$60 - \$90
 Livingstonia Mission Hike 30km rtn US \$7
 Traditional Healer Visit US \$7
 Village Walk & Meal US \$15

Namibia

Quad Biking US \$90
 Sky Diving US \$350
 Sossusvlei Guided Walk US \$35
 Township Tour US \$75

South Africa

Abseiling Table Mountain. Pre/Post tour US \$100
 Cape Point day trip. Pre/Post tour US \$90
 Gariiep River Canoeing (min 4) US \$40
 Shark Cage Diving US \$200 - \$300
 Township Tour Cape Town half day. Pre/Post tour US \$65
 Whale Viewing (seasonal). Pre/Post tour US \$90
 Wine Tasting Cederberg US \$10
 Wineland day trip. Pre/Post tour US \$90

Tanzania

3 day Serengeti/Ngorongoro Excursion from US \$450
 Olduvai Gorge US \$5

Uganda

Adrift/Softpower Community Project US \$25
 Chimpanzee Sanctuary (excl transfer) from US \$60
 Gorilla Trek* from US \$600
 Horse Riding 2 hours (excl transfer) US \$50
 Jinja Quad Bike 2 hours US \$70
 Nile River Bungee US \$95
 White Water Rafting On The Nile US \$125

Zambia

Zambezi Sunset Dinner Cruise US \$80

Zanzibar

Dhow Fishing Trip US \$35
 Dhow Sunset Cruise US \$30

Dolphin Trip US \$35
 Moped Hire US \$70
 Nungwe Half Day Snorkel Trip US \$35
 Prison Island Snorkelling Trip US \$25
 Scuba Diving from US \$75
 Spice Tour US \$25
 Stone Town Tour US \$40
 Zanzibar Accommodation p.p.p.n US \$30-\$50

Zimbabwe

Bungee Jump (111m) US \$132
 Elephant Back Safari US \$130
 Entry to Vic Falls National Park US \$30
 Full Day Adrenaline (min. 10) US \$150
 Helicopter Over The Falls 15 mins US \$130
 Horse Riding 3 hours US \$75
 Microlight Over The Falls 15 mins US \$150
 Rafting & Boarding Combo US \$165
 Rafting On The Zambezi US \$130
 Walk With Lions - Vic Falls US \$130

Great African Expedition Northbound - 57 days

updated on 24-02-2012