

# Big Five Explorer Safari Northbound

36 days | Victoria Falls to Nairobi



*Starting at Victoria Falls, Africa's adrenaline capital and finishing in Nairobi this trip goes into adventure overdrive! Go in search of the Big Five on safari, gorilla trek through the jungle, laze on the beach in Zanzibar and cross the Equator on this is the adventure of a lifetime!*

## HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS

### Trip Highlights

- **Zimbabwe:** begin your safari adventure at Victoria Falls, where you can marvel at the cascades and opt for bungee jumping or helicopter rides
- **Botswana:** camp out in the wilderness of Chobe National Park, listening out for the sounds of the nocturnal wildlife
- **Zambia:** admire the Zambian side of Victoria Falls and search for giraffes, elephants and more on safari in South Luangwa National Park
- **Malawi:** visit the Malawian capital of Lilongwe and spend three days camping along the shore of spectacular Lake Malawi, which takes up one third of the country
- **Zanzibar:** unwind on pristine white sandy beaches and opt for a sunset dhow cruise, snorkelling or scuba diving

- **Tanzania:** spot Africa's Big Five in some of the continent's premier game reserves, including the Ngorongoro Crater and the mighty Serengeti
- **Kenya:** go on safari in the Masai Mara and Lake Nakuru, stay in the capital Nairobi and visit a traditional Masai settlement
- **Uganda:** spend time in Kampala and relax at Lake Bunyoni before your optional gorilla trek in search of endangered Mountain gorillas

### What's Included

- 30 breakfasts, 27 lunches, 29 dinners
- 1st night dorm/camping in Victoria Falls and 31 nights camping. Tents and sleeping mats provided
- 3 night Zanzibar Excursion including ferry transfer, accommodation, Spice Tour and Dhow Sunset Cruise
- Arrival transfer from Victoria Falls Airport on day 1
- Park entry - Lake Naivasha NP. Park entry and game drives - Ngorongoro NP, Serengeti NP, Masai Mara, Lake Nakuru NP South Luangwa and Chobe NP
- A fully equipped overland truck for transportation and game drives
- Services of 3 person crew (leader, driver, cook)
- All camping fees and appropriate equipment
- All road taxes and tolls

### What's Not Included

- Entrance Fees: Gorilla Permit + Transfer USD\$720 - 870pp, paid in USD
- Sleeping bag - please bring your own
- Gorilla Permit and transfer fee: Please note that Gorillas often move across the border, between the national parks in Rwanda and Uganda, 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. Permits are subject to availability and need to be booked in advance.
- International flights and visas
- Tipping - an entirely personal gesture

### Local Payment

\$2100pp, paid in USD

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.

## ITINERARY

## Big Five Explorer Safari Northbound - 36 days

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This information has been compiled with care and good faith. They give 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. 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 Tours.

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## Day 1 : Victoria Falls

Saturday. Welcome to Victoria Falls! Upon arrival you will be met and transferred to our campsite in town. There is a pre-departure meeting at 1700hrs where you will meet your guide and the rest of your group. **Overnight - Victoria Falls**

## Day 2 : Victoria Falls



Today we have a free day relaxing and enjoying the myriad of activities available at Victoria Falls. The Falls themselves are 1700 metres wide and 100 metres high - a truly spectacular sight. It is possible to take part in micro flights over the falls or go white water rafting in the Bakota Gorge as well as trying your hand at bungee jumping. **Overnight - Victoria Falls**

## Day 3 : Chobe National Park

Victoria Falls - Chobe NP (Botswana). Today we depart Zimbabwe for Botswana and the town of Kasane. Kasane sits on the banks of the Chobe River. This afternoon we head into Chobe National Park for our overnight excursion for lots of game driving and a night in the bush.

**Overnight - Chobe National Park (B, L, D)**

## Day 4 : Livingstone



Chobe NP - Livingstone (Zambia). After our night in the park we cross into Zambia and to the town of Livingstone - on the other side

of Victoria Falls. 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 - Livingstone (B, D)**

## Day 5 : Lusaka Region

Livingstone - Lusaka Region. We spend the day slowly travelling through southern Zambia and our campsite this evening is near the capital Lusaka. **Overnight - Lusaka Region (B, L, D)**

## Days 6-7 : South Luangwa National Park



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

From Luangwa, we follow the old "East Road" to a lovely campsite in Chipata, close to the Zambia/Malawi border. **Overnight - South Luangwa National Park (B:2, L:2, D:2)**

## Days 8-10 : Lake Malawi Beaches

(B:3, L:3, D:3)

## Day 11 : Iringa

Lake Malawi Beaches - Iringa (Tanzania). After lots of beach time it is time to leave

Malawi as we head through the Tukuyu tea and banana plantations and into Tanzania for our night camping by the beautiful rustic 'Farmhouse' campsite famous for its Amarula hot chocolates and its steamy showers! **Overnight - Iringa (B, L, D)**

## Day 12 : Dar es Salaam

Iringa - Dar es Salaam. This morning we pass through the Mikumi National Park where it is possible to view a range of wildlife from the roadside. We'll also pass 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 13-15 : Zanzibar



Dar es Salaam - Zanzibar. This morning we take the ferry over to the Spice Island of Zanzibar for 3 nights. Spending our first night in the capital Stone Town before heading north to the beaches for some R&R. **Overnight - Zanzibar (B:1)**

## Day 16 : Zanzibar



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

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## Days 17-18 : Arusha

Dar es Salaam – Pangani - Arusha. Over the next couple of days we continue heading north for the town of Arusha. On the night of day 17 we stop in the coastal town of Pangani. Our campsite in Arusha is at the Maserani Snake Park and is our base for heading into the Serengeti and Ngorongoro tomorrow. **Overnight - Pangani (1) Arusha (1)** (B:2, L:2, D:2)

## Days 19-21 : Serengeti & Ngorongoro



Arusha - Karatu. Today we head towards the Serengeti and Ngorongoro Crater on our included excursion using locally operated 4WD vehicles. These vehicles have been adapted for safari use and allow excellent viewing and photographic opportunities through the opening roof hatches.

Our Ngorongoro/Serengeti excursion takes us via the Masai town of Mtu Wa Mbu (Mosquito River) to Karatu where you will be met with magnificent views over the surrounding hills. Tonight we spend the evening at a campsite in Karatu.

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

**Overnight - Karatu (1) Serengeti (1) Arusha (1)** (B:3, L:3, D:3)

## Day 22 : Nairobi

Arusha - Nairobi (Kenya). Departing early - we travel north to the border with Kenya and the small town of Namanga. Once across the border we continue to the capital Nairobi where we overnight. **Overnight - Nairobi (B)**

## Days 23-24 : Masai Mara



Nairobi - Masai Mara. Departing the capital we travel through the Great Rift Valley before arriving at our campsite Acacia Camp in the late afternoon. The campsite is on the border of the Masai Mara National Reserve.

The following morning we depart shortly after sunrise for a game drive into the Masai Mara. The Masai Mara is 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. We go 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 can visit one of the nearby Masai Manyatta's – this is a traditional hamlet where the Masai still live in their traditional way. (B:1, L:2, D:2)

## Day 25 : Eldoret

Masai Mara - Eldoret. Leaving the Masai Mara early, we head out of Masai Land pass through the scenic tea plantations of Kericho before descending the Rift Valley Plateau, on our way to Eldoret. **Overnight - Eldoret (B, L, D)**

## Day 26 : Kampala

Eldoret - Kampala (Uganda). This morning, we cross the border into Uganda for our night

in the capital city - Kampala. **Overnight - Kampala (B, L, D)**

## Days 27-30 : Lake Bunyoni & Gorilla Trekking



Kampala - Lake Bunyoni. This morning we travel to Lake Bunyoni - our base for trekking to see the mountain gorillas. Lake Bunyoni is the deepest Crater Lake in Africa and home to a large and varied number of beautiful birds. Dependant on where trekking permits are available, we trek in the Magahinga or Bwindi National Parks in Uganda.

**Please note:** Gorilla permits need to be purchased in advance, please ask your reservations consultant or visit our Gorilla trekking travel guide. **Overnight - Lake Bunyoni (B:4, L:4, D:4)**

## Day 31 : 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 32 : 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)**

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## Day 33 : Lake Nakuru

Jinja - Lake Nakuru (Kenya). Today we return to Kenya travelling on to Lake Nakuru - Kenya's 4th largest town and the capital of the Rift Valley Province, it lies adjacent to the small but wildlife rich Lake Nakuru National Park. We camp in the area of the National Park. **Overnight - Lake Nakuru** (B, L, D)

## Days 34-35 : Lake Naivasha



Lake Nakuru - Lake Naivasha. Today we game drive through Lake Nakuru National Park - an established sanctuary for black and white rhino, which are often seen. We spend the day searching for these and the elusive leopard, encountering buffalo, giraffe, various antelope and the occasional hippo along the way. After our game drive, we head back to our campsite, arriving in the late afternoon.

On day 35 we travel on to Lake Naivasha, which is home to a multitude of bird life, the most magnificent being the African Fish Eagle with his regal cry. We spend the day enjoying optional excursions like Elsamere (former home to Joy & George Adamson of Born Free fame), a boat ride to the Crescent Island Game Sanctuary or a bike ride around Hell's Gate National Park. **Overnight - Lake Nakuru (1) Lake Naivasha (1)** (B:2, L:2, D:2)

## Day 36 : Nairobi

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

### HOTELS

Highlighted below are some of the hotels which we frequently use on this tour, though

we reserve the right to substitute these hotels to ones of a similar standard.

**Please refer to your Tour Voucher for your confirmed arrival hotel and further arrival information.**

## Shearwater Explorers Village

Situated in the bohemian town of Victoria Falls, and 400m from the Falls themselves, the affordable accommodation at the Shearwater Explorers Village consists of 5 campsites with modern bathroom facilities, and 16 chalets with en-suite showers and A/ C. Shearwater operates a range of activities at the Falls, from bungee jumping to river rafting - and when the day is over, guests can wind down with Wi-Fi in the lounge areas, a drink by the pool, or even a back rub in the massage tent.



## Victoria Falls Rest Camp

Located a stone's throw away from the Artist village & Elephant Walk Shopping is the Victoria Falls Rest Camp. Offering camping and dorm room accommodation, this camp features a year-round outdoor pool and barbecue facilities. Daily continental or cooked breakfast is served at the in-house restaurant, which also offers a variety of local African dishes. Wi-fi is available and some units feature equipped kitchens.



## Zambezi Waterfront

The Zambezi Waterfront is a comfortable lodge with 16 standard twin chalets, six units of which overlook the river. There are also three Executive rooms and four Family rooms.



## Croc Valley Camp

Croc Valley Camp is located on the banks of the Luangwa River, and provides accommodation ranging from riverfront tents to ensuite chalets, built on stilts to avoid the off-season floods. Watch elephants roam across the campsite, experience a game drive through South Luangwa National Park, or relax with a gin & tonic at the bar. The camp also features a large outdoor pool, kitchen facilities, and daily laundry service.



## Kipepeo Village

The Tanzanian bush meets the blue waters of the Indian Ocean at Kipepeo Beach & Village, situated on the south coast of Dar Es Salaam. The campsite is right on the beach itself and is a popular destination for watersports adventures or simple relaxation. Facilities include a beach bar and restaurant. Upgrades are available to the twenty elevated ensuite chalets, built in the bush and decorated in traditional Swahili style, provide a stunning ocean views.



## Wildebeest Eco Camp

Wildebeest Eco Camp is a distinctive starting point from which to explore Nairobi and beyond. The camp offers a shaded campsite for budget travellers, or luxury ensuite tents for those looking to splurge a little on their safari experience. Located in the vibrant

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Langata area, Nairobi National Park and the Galleria Shopping Centre are among the attractions just 10 minutes' drive away. After a long day of travelling, indulgences such as an infinity pool and guest library are available, as are free Wi-fi and laundry service.



## Naiberi River Campsite & Resort

Camp by the river Naiberi at this vintage resort 16km from Eldoret, which also offers spacious dorms, log cabins, and executive rooms built into the valley slopes. During the day, admire the wildlife, with a variety of local nature trails offering the chance to encounter over 250 bird species. At night, venture down to the famous cave restaurant and enjoy a meal within the stone walls, believed to have once housed members of the ancient Sirikwa tribe. Other amenities include an outdoor pool and extensive bar selection.



## Red Chilli Hideaway

Located on a purpose-built, 5-acre site in a peaceful suburb, the Red Chilli Hideaway offers affordable accommodation ranging from a campsite which we use for our overland safaris to private ensuite rooms for upgrades. Settle down for the day at the Hideaway's saltwater pool, self-catering kitchen, or restaurant & bar. The camp supports sustainable tourism and operates the Steve Willis Memorial Fund, whose proceeds go to providing clean drinking water in the Murchison Falls region.

### PRICES / DATES INFO

Departure dates noted with a 'G' are guaranteed to operate. All other departure dates are guaranteed with a minimum of 4 persons. Prices shown are per person travelling. Single travellers will be paired up in tents with another person of the same gender.

### PRICES / DATES 2020

Date	Twin Share	Single
26 Dec	GBP 2,145	GBP 4,185

### PRICES / DATES 2021

Date	Twin Share	Single
06 Mar	GBP 2,225	GBP 4,395
03 Apr	GBP 2,225	GBP 4,395
01 May	GBP 2,225	GBP 4,395
29 May	GBP 2,225	GBP 4,395
26 Jun	GBP 2,225	GBP 4,395
24 Jul	GBP 2,275	GBP 4,445
07 Aug	GBP 2,275	GBP 4,445
21 Aug	GBP 2,275	GBP 4,445
04 Sep	GBP 2,275	GBP 4,445
18 Sep	GBP 2,225	GBP 4,395
02 Oct	GBP 2,225	GBP 4,395
16 Oct	GBP 2,225	GBP 4,395
30 Oct	GBP 2,225	GBP 4,395
13 Nov	GBP 2,225	GBP 4,395
27 Nov	GBP 2,225	GBP 4,395
25 Dec	GBP 2,275	GBP 4,445

### PRICES / DATES 2022

Date	Twin Share	Single
22 Jan	GBP 2,170	GBP 2,170
19 Feb	GBP 2,225	GBP 4,395
19 Mar	GBP 2,225	GBP 4,395
16 Apr	GBP 2,225	GBP 4,395
14 May	GBP 2,225	GBP 4,395
11 Jun	GBP 2,225	GBP 4,395

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