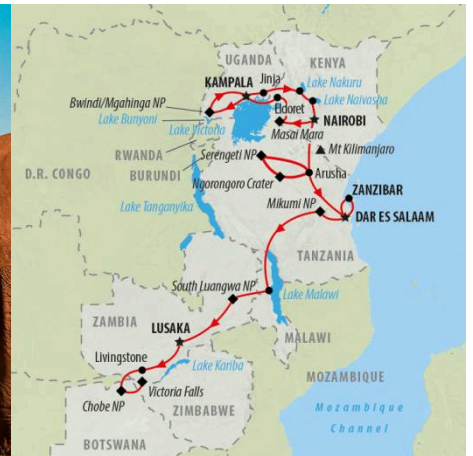


Big Five Safari Explorer

36 days | Nairobi to Victoria Falls



Adventure overdrive. Trekking for gorilla, game-spotting, kicking back on Zanzibar, this expedition takes in some of the best of Eastern Africa and culminates at the breathtaking Victoria Falls - Africa's adrenaline playground!

HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS

Trip Highlights

- **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
- **Tanzania:** spot Africa's Big Five in some of the continent's premier game reserves, including the Ngorongoro Crater and the mighty Serengeti
- **Zanzibar:** unwind on pristine white sandy beaches and opt for a sunset dhow cruise, snorkelling or scuba diving
- **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
- **Zambia:** admire the Zambian side of Victoria Falls and search for giraffes,

elephants and more on safari in South Luangwa National Park

- **Botswana:** camp in the wilderness of Chobe National Park, listening for the sounds of the nocturnal wildlife
- **Zimbabwe:** end your safari adventure at Victoria Falls, where you can marvel at the cascades and opt for bungee jumping or helicopter rides

What's Included

- 30 breakfasts, 29 lunches, 29 dinners
- 1st night dormitory accommodation at Wildebeest Eco Camp 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 Nairobi Airport on day 1
- A fully equipped overland truck for transportation and game drives
- Park entry - Lake Naivasha NP. Park entry and game drives - Masai Mara, Ngorongoro NP, Serengeti NP, Lake Nakuru NP, South Luangwa and Chobe NP
- 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

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Big Five Safari Explorer

Day 1 : Nairobi

Welcome to Nairobi! We'll be there to collect you at Nairobi Airport and transfer you to the Kenya Comfort Hotel. Tonight you will stay in shared dorms. There will be a pre departure meeting at 17.00. **Overnight - Nairobi**

Days 2-3 : Masai Mara

Nairobi - Masai Mara. Heading west from Nairobi on day 2, we reach possibly Kenya's most famous natural attraction - the Masai Mara National Reserve. The Kenyan section of the wildly beautiful Serengeti Plains teems with wildlife. The highlight of the Mara is no doubt the annual wildebeest migration, when literally millions of these beasts plus zebra and Thomson's gazelle stray north from the Serengeti in neighbouring Tanzania in search of lush grass on the savannah plains. Elephant, lion, cheetah, giraffe and a multitude of hooved herbivores also inhabit the reserve. A game drive through the Mara on day 3 gives us the chance to spot the Big Five. During our stay we can also opt to visit a local Masai tribe. **Overnight - Masai Mara (B:1, L:2, D:2)**

Days 4-5 : Eldoret & Kampala

Masai Mara - Eldoret - Kampala (Uganda). Leaving the Masai Mara early on day 4, we head out of Masai Land and pass through the scenic tea plantations of Kericho before descending the Rift Valley Plateau. The following morning, we cross the border into Uganda where we overnight in the capital city, Kampala. **Overnight - Eldoret (1), Kampala (1) (B:2, L:2, D:2)**

Days 6-9 : Lake Bunyoni & Gorilla Trekking



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

from which the optional Gorilla trek takes place. Dependant on where trekking permits are available, we trek in the Magahinga or Bwindi National Parks in Uganda.

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 en route. 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 and it can be quite strenuous. 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.

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)**

Days 10-11 : Kampala & Jinja

Lake Bunyoni - Kampala - Jinja. After marvelling at the experience of our gorilla encounters and enjoying the peaceful Lake Bunyoni, we begin our drive back to Kampala. We cross the Equator for the second time and stop for the classic "one foot in each hemisphere" photo opportunity. We overnight in Kampala and have the opportunity to sample its night life!

On day 11 we have the option of visiting the Ngamba Island Chimpanzee Sanctuary or

heading to Jinja for a selection of adventure activities including white water rafting at the source of the White Nile, quad biking or visiting a volunteer and community project.

Overnight - Kampala (1), Jinja (1) (B:2, L:2, D:2)

Days 12-13 : Lake Nakuru



Jinja - Nakuru - Naivasha (Kenya). Departing early, we head back to Kenya, stopping for lunch and supplies en route. We overnight outside Nakuru. 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.

The following morning we begin our exploration of the Lake Nakuru National Park. 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 our campsite, arriving in the late afternoon. **Overnight - Lake Nakuru (B:2, L:2, D:2)**

Days 14-15 : Lake Naivasha & Nairobi

Lake Nakuru - Naivasha - Nairobi. Departing Lake Nakuru, we head for Lake Naivasha, home to a multitude of bird life, the most magnificent being the African Fish Eagle with his regal cry. At 1880 m, this is the highest of the Rift Valley lakes. We spend the day enjoying optional excursions like Elsamere (former home to Joy & George Adamson of Born Free fame), a boat ride to the Crescent Island Game Sanctuary or a bike ride around Hell's Gate National Park. The next morning we head back to Nairobi. **Overnight - Naivasha (1), Nairobi (1) (B:2, L:1, D:1)**

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Days 16-19 : Serengeti & Ngorongoro



Nairobi - Arusha (Tanzania). Leaving Nairobi, we cross the border into Tanzania. Arusha is the starting point for the optional 3 day excursion to Ngorongoro Crater and the Serengeti.

The 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'! **Overnight - Arusha (1) Karatu (1) Serengeti (1) Arusha (1)** (B:3, L:4, D:4)

Days 20-21 : Pangani & Dar es Salaam

Arusha - Pangani - Dar es Salaam. We return to Arusha before continuing on towards Dar es Salaam. On the way we drive through the town of Moshi situated at the magnificent Mount Kilimanjaro – Africa's highest mountain. We may even catch a glimpse of this magical mountain's snowy summit - a photo opportunity not to be missed! We spend the night in Pangani midway between Arusha and Dar es Salaam before reaching our lovely seaside campsite in Dar es Salaam the following day. **Overnight - Pangani (1), Dar es Salaam (1)** (B:2, L:2, D:2)

Days 22-24 : Zanzibar



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

Overnight - Zanzibar (B:1)

Days 25-26 : Mikumi & Iringa

Zanzibar - Mikumi - Iringa. Leaving Zanzibar in the morning, we return to the mainland and head west to Mikumi for an overnight stop. The next day we continue our journey west. Our destination today is Iringa where we spend the night in a beautiful rustic campsite famous for its Amarula Hot Chocolates and its steamy showers! **Overnight - Mikumi (1), Iringa (1)** (B:1, L:2, D:2)

Days 27-29 : Lake Malawi



Iringa - Lake Malawi (Malawi). Winding our way through the beauty of the Tukuyu tea and banana plantations, we travel into Malawi, a landlocked country with 20% of its total area made up of beautiful Lake Malawi. We travel the length of the western side of the lake, stopping off at various bays and inlets over the next 3 days. Spend the days learning the game of bao from the locals, scour the markets for a bargain or simply relax on the pristine beaches. **Overnight - Lake Malawi (B:3, L:3, D:3)**

Days 30-31 : South Luangwa National Park

Lake Malawi - South Luangwa (Zambia). We head away from Lake Malawi, and cross into Zambia. Across the border we head towards South Luangwa National Park. 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. **Overnight - South Luangwa National Park (B:2, L:2, D:2)**

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Big Five Safari Explorer

Days 32-33 : Livingstone



South Luangwa - Lusaka Area - Livingstone. Today we depart this amazing National Park and make our way down south. As we drive, we pass through a few of the villages and towns of Zambia along the way. Prosperous during the copper boom in the 60's, Zambia was able to build infrastructure at the main mining and farming communities. After the fall of the copper industry, the country was left virtually bankrupt and existing infrastructure was left to fall to ruin. Due to foreign investment and a rise in the mining industry, Zambia is today once again starting to prosper. Heading further south on day 33, we journey to Livingstone. The Victoria Falls or Mosi-oa-Tunya (the Smoke that Thunders) is one of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World and it's not difficult to see why. At 1700 m wide and around 100 m high, this is the world's largest sheet of falling water and a memorable sight on any African Safari! The Falls can be viewed from the Mosi-oa-Tunya National Park, Zambia - a fantastic photo opportunity. Tonight we have the option of enjoying a sunset dinner cruise on the mighty Zambezi. **Overnight - Lusaka Area (1) Livingstone (1)** (B:2, L:2, D:2)

Day 34 : Chobe National Park

Livingstone - Chobe (Botswana). Today we cross the border into Botswana and continue to the town of Kasane, on the banks of the Chobe River which forms a border between Zambia, Namibia and Botswana.

Tonight we enjoy an exciting overnight experience in the wilds of the Chobe National park. Chobe is one of Botswana's premier game parks, renowned for its large elephant herds. Spend the afternoon in search of wildlife while we game drive to our camp within the park where we spend the evening

surrounded by the night-time noises of the local wildlife. **Overnight - Chobe National Park** (B, L, D)

Day 35 : Victoria Falls



Chobe - Victoria Falls (Zimbabwe). After our night in the bush, we head out early to continue our search for wildlife, before packing up the camp and heading back to Kasane. Crossing the border into Zimbabwe, a short drive takes us to the nearby Victoria Falls. Named after the famous World Heritage site and Water Falls, the town of Victoria Falls is situated on the Zambezi River and surrounded by the Victoria Falls National Park. We enjoy our last day in the adrenaline playground of Africa, where there are optional activities aplenty here including Zambezi white water rafting, bungee jumping from 111m and flights over the Falls in a variety of airborne machines! **Overnight - Victoria Falls** (B)

Day 36 : Victoria Falls

Saturday marks the end of our expedition. Consider extending your stay in Victoria Falls to take advantage of all the exciting optional excursions available. (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.

Kenya Comfort Hotel

Comfortable dormitory accommodation in central Nairobi (upgrades available on

request). The Kenya Comfort Hotel also features an outdoor pool, restaurant serving a good array of local and international dishes as well as a fully stocked bar - perfect for relaxing before or after your epic overland adventure.



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 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.



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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.



East Africa Mission Organisation (EAMO)

Established in 1997 by Australian couple Ralph & May Spinks, EAMO is a registered charitable institution which houses hundreds of orphaned Kenyan children. Their goal is to provide these children with dedicated care, nutrition, and education. EAMO has been

rapidly expanding over the last two decades, and relies entirely on the generosity of volunteers and sponsors to support its growth.

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.



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.



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.



PRICES / DATES INFO

Departure dates are guaranteed with a minimum of 4 persons. Prices are per person when there are 2 people sharing a tent. The 'Solo Room' price is applicable to all solo travellers, or if your booking party cannot reach the minimum of 2 persons in a tent. Solo travellers will be placed in their own tent or matched up with another solo traveller of the same sex, based upon the current health advice at time of travel.

PRICES / DATES 2021

Date	Twin Share	Single
03 Jul	USD 3,636	USD 6,734
17 Jul	USD 3,636	USD 6,734
31 Jul	USD 3,636	USD 6,734
14 Aug	USD 3,636	USD 6,734

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PRICES / DATES 2021

Date	Twin Share	Single
28 Aug	USD 3,636	USD 6,734
11 Sep	USD 3,636	USD 6,734
25 Sep	USD 3,418	USD 6,516
09 Oct	USD 3,418	USD 6,516
23 Oct	USD 3,418	USD 6,516
06 Nov	USD 3,418	USD 6,516
20 Nov	USD 3,418	USD 6,516
04 Dec	USD 3,418	USD 6,516
18 Dec	USD 3,636	USD 6,734

PRICES / DATES 2022

Date	Twin Share	Single
15 Jan	USD 3,098	USD 3,098
12 Feb	USD 3,418	USD 6,516
12 Mar	USD 3,418	USD 6,516
09 Apr	USD 3,418	USD 6,516
07 May	USD 3,418	USD 6,516
04 Jun	USD 3,418	USD 6,516
18 Jun	USD 3,418	USD 6,516
02 Jul	USD 3,636	USD 6,734

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