

# The Big Overlander Northbound

47 days | Johannesburg to Nairobi



*Discover seven different countries, travelling from South Africa northbound to Kenya. Spot wildlife in some of Africa's most abundant game parks, trek for gorilla in Uganda, relax and unwind on Zanzibar's beautiful beaches and soak up Africa's incredible sights. Experience all that this majestic continent has to offer, up close and personal!*

## HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS

### Trip Highlights

- **South Africa** - start your journey in Johannesburg, search for the Big Five in Kruger National Park and see the impressive Blyde River Canyon
- **Zimbabwe** - visit the Great Zimbabwe Ruins, spot wildlife in Matobo and Hwange national parks and take in the Zimbabwean side of Victoria Falls
- **Botswana** - game drive through Chobe National Park and camp out in the wilderness of the reserve, listening to the sounds of the nocturnal wildlife
- **Zambia** - marvel at the Zambian side of majestic Victoria Falls from Livingstone and explore South Luangwa National Park

- **Malawi** - journey along the shore of Lake Malawi, stopping to explore various bays, beaches, inlets and local communities
- **Tanzania** - relax on the sandy beaches of Zanzibar and enjoy game drives in the legendary Serengeti National Park and the UNESCO-listed Ngorongoro Crater
- **Kenya** - spot the famous Big Five in the Masai Mara, search for rhinos in Lake Nakuru National Park and watch the African Fish Eagle swooping over Lake Naivasha
- **Uganda** - stay in the Ugandan capital - Kampala, relax around the shore of Lake Bunyoni and head into the dense jungle of the Magahinga or Bwindi national parks on an optional gorilla trek to see the great apes

### What's Included

- Arrival transfer from Johannesburg Airport on day 1
- 1st night dormitory accommodation at Mufasa Backpackers Johannesburg (upgrades available) and 42 nights camping. Tents and sleeping mats provided
- A fully equipped overland truck for transportation and game drives
- Services of 3 person crew (leader, driver, cook)
- All camping fees & appropriate equipment
- 41 breakfasts, 37 lunches, 37 dinners

- Park entry - Lake Naivasha NP and Victoria Falls NP. Park entry and game drive - Kruger NP, South Luangwa NP, Matobo NP, Masai Mara, Lake Nakuru NP, Ngorongoro NP, Serengeti NP and Chobe NP
- 3 night Zanzibar Excursion including ferry transfer, accommodation, Spice Tour and Dhow Sunset Cruise
- All road taxes and tolls

### What's Not Included

- Entrance Fees: Gorilla Permit + Transfer USD\$720-870pp, paid in USD
- 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
- Sleeping bag - please bring your own
- Optional activities

### Local Payment

## The Big Overlander Northbound - 47 days

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updated on 26-05-2020 11:37:26

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.

# The Big Overlander Northbound

\$2640pp, 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

### Day 1 : Johannesburg

Tuesday. Welcome to South Africa. We'll be there to meet you at Johannesburg Airport and we'll transfer you to the Dove's Nest Guesthouse for your first night in dorm accommodation. There will be a Welcome Meeting at 1700 where you will have the opportunity to meet your tour guide and fellow travellers. **Overnight - Johannesburg**

### Days 2-3 : Kruger National Park



Johannesburg - Kruger. Departing Johannesburg we drive towards Kruger National Park - passing through the famous Panorama Route on our way. We spend 2 nights in the vicinity of the park and take a night time game drive on the evening of day 2. Day 3 is spent game driving in the park on the look out for the famous Big Five. **Overnight - Kruger National Park (B:1, L:2, D:2)**

### Day 4 : Blyde River Canyon

Kruger NP - Polokwane. Departing the park today we travel up to Blyde River Canyon and God's Window before overnighting in Polokwane.

**Overnight - Polokwane (B, L, D)**

### Day 5 : Polokwane



Polokwane - Musina. Today we continue our journey north toward the border with Zimbabwe. Sit back and enjoy the changing scenery on this long drive to the beautiful town of Tshipise. Located between rolling hills and well known for its natural hot water springs, Tshipise has various walking trails to enjoy or you can relax in the pools this evening. **Overnight - Tshipise (B, L, D)**

### Day 6 : Great Zimbabwe Ruins

Tshipise - Masvingo. We cross the border into Zimbabwe this morning, a truly beautiful country with incredible history and tradition. Arriving to the town of Masvingo, our stop for the night, we then head out to explore the Great Zimbabwe Ruins. According to legend these ruins were the capital of the Queen of Sheba and were inhabited by the Bantu civilization of the Shona between the 11th and 15th century. You'll have an opportunity to explore these incredible ruins, including the 8 statues of stone birds carefully carved from soapstone, before we return to our campsite for the evening. **Overnight - Masvingo (B, L, D)**

### Day 7 : Bulawayo



Masvingo - Bulawayo. Departing Masvingo we head north to Bulawayo, Zimbabwe's second largest city. With wide sweeping roads and with several the buildings still retaining

their British Colonial feel there is lots to see and do in Bulawayo. During your free time you might want to visit the Natural History Museum, the National Arts Gallery or the Mzilikazi Arts and Crafts Centre. **Overnight - Bulawayo (B, L, D)**

### Day 8 : Matobo National Park

This morning we head for Matobo National Park, one of the few remaining areas in the world inhabited with both Black and White Rhino. Within the park there is also a high concentration of the elusive leopard and impressive black eagle. The ancient San inhabitants of this area are also evidenced by some incredible rock paintings located within the national park. We'll enjoy the day exploring this fascinating and often unique geological, ecological and historic area. Later we return to our campsite near Bulawayo. **Overnight - Bulawayo (B, L, D)**

### Days 9-10 : Hwange National Park

Bulawayo - Hwange National Park. We head northwest today to Zimbabwe's largest and longest running reserve, Hwange National Park, on day 9. Well known for its abundance and variety of wildlife including thousands of elephants and rare antelope species such as Sable and Roan Antelope.

On day 10 we'll enjoy a full day exploring Hwange National Park. Covering an area of over 5,600 square miles, Hwange was founded in 1928 as a game reserve and became a National Park in 1961, it is home to 400 species of bird and 107 types of animal. On our game drive today we'll hope to spot some of these animals, including lions, cheetahs, giraffe and hyenas. **Overnight - Hwange National Park (B:2, L:2, D:2)**

### Day 11 : Victoria Falls

Hwange National Park - Victoria Falls (Zimbabwe). This morning we continue to the border of Zimbabwe and our destination Victoria Falls.

A 20 minute walk from our campsite takes you to the entry point of the falls. Victoria Falls, or Mosi-oa-Tunya (the Smoke that Thunders),

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was named by David Livingstone on his explorations, and is one of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World.

Later we relax at the campsite's swimming pool, view the Victoria Falls, or explore the many sights and delights of this town!  
**Overnight - Victoria Falls (B, L)**

## Days 12-13 : Victoria Falls



We have 2 more days at Victoria Falls where we have the opportunity to partake in a plethora of optional activities from micro light flights to bungee jumping to white water rafting. There is a reason Victoria Falls is the adrenalin capital of Africa!  
**Overnight - Victoria Falls (B:2)**

## Day 14 : Chobe National Park

Victoria Falls - Chobe NP (Botswana). Today we cross the border to Botswana and make our way to the town of Kasane. From here we take the included overnight excursion into Chobe National Park. 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)**

## Day 15 : Livingstone



Chobe NP - Livingstone (Zambia). 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 returning to the camp at Kasane, we get back on our truck and continue to the town of Livingstone. 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 (L, D)**

## Days 16-18 : South Luangwa

Livingstone - Lusaka Area - South Luangwa. We start early today as we head further north through Zambia. We spend the evening of day 16 in the Lusaka area before continuing to South Luangwa National Park - one of Zambia's premier national parks.  
**Overnight - Lusaka Area (1), South Luangwa NP (2) (B:3, L:3, D:3)**

## Days 19-21 : Lake Malawi

South Luangwa - Lake Malawi Beaches (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 3 days.  
**Overnight - Lake Malawi Beaches (3) (B:3, L:3, D:3)**

## Day 22 : Iringa

Lake Malawi Beaches - Iringa (Tanzania). After a relaxing 3 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 23 : Dar es Salaam

Iringa - Dar es Salaam. Continuing north we pass through Mikumi National Park with the opportunity to see wildlife along the way. Today could be a long drive day as we get to one of Tanzania's busiest cities, Dar Es Salaam. We camp tonight at a seaside campsite and prepare for our departure

to Zanzibar tomorrow.  
**Overnight - Dar es Salaam (B, L, D)**

## Days 24-26 : Zanzibar



Dar es Salaam - Zanzibar. This morning we leave our campsite and board the public ferry to Zanzibar. We spend the next 3 days relaxing on the island and our stay here includes one night in Stone Town and two nights on the Northern beaches as well as a Spice Tour in Stone Town and a Sunset Dhow cruise.  
**Overnight - Zanzibar (B:1)**

## Day 27 : 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)**

## Days 28-29 : Arusha

Dar es Salaam - Pangani - Arusha. Our travel over the next two days takes us up to Arusha via the coastal town of Pangani. We'll pass by vast sisal plantations and African bushveld along the way. If we are lucky we may even catch a glimpse of Mount Kilimanjaro.  
**Overnight - Pangani (1) Arusha (1) (B:2, L:2, D:2)**

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## Days 30-32 : Serengeti & Ngorongoro



Arusha - Serengeti & Ngorongoro. This morning we visit the Meserani Reptile Park and Masai Culture Museum before meeting our expert Tanzanian safari guides for our excursion into the Serengeti and Ngorongoro Crater. Over the next couple of days we will game drive in the Serengeti and Ngorongoro whilst camping nearby. We hope to spot lots of exciting game including the famous Big Five.

On the morning of day 32 we depart on a final game drive and the start of our journey back to Arusha. This evening we compare our amazing wildlife stories. **Overnight - Karatu (1) Serengeti (1) Arusha (1)** (B:3, L:3, D:3)

## Day 33 : Nairobi

Arusha - Nairobi (Kenya). We leave Arusha early this morning and head towards the border with Kenya at Namanga. Once through here we continue to the capital - Nairobi and a night at the Kenya Comfort Hotel. **Overnight - Nairobi (B)**

## Days 34-35 : Masai Mara



Nairobi - Masai Mara. Leaving the capital behind we travel through the Great Rift Valley on our way to the Masai Mara. Our campsite for the night is Acacia Camp on the edge of the reserve. On day 35 we have an early

morning game drive in our truck and later on we can opt to visit a traditional Masai hamlet. This evening back at camp we discuss our wildlife sightings around the fire. **Overnight - Masai Mara** (B:1, L:2, D:2)

## Day 36 : Kisumu

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. We replenish our supplies and overnight here. **Overnight - Eldoret** (B, L, D)

## Day 37 : Kampala

Eldoret - Kampala (Uganda). Today we cross into neighbouring Uganda and the capital Kampala. We rest here for a night before we head towards Lake Bunyoni tomorrow. **Overnight - Kampala** (B, L, D)

## Days 38-41 : Optional Gorilla Trekking



Kampala - Lake Bunyoni. Departing the capital we drive up to Lake Bunyoni - Africa's deepest crater lake and also our base for our trek to see the gorillas in the Magahinga or Bwindi National Parks of Uganda. For more information on Gorilla Trekking - please see our Trip Notes for extensive information on Gorilla Trekking.

**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 42 : 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 43 : 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 44 : Lake Nakuru

Jinja - Lake Nakuru (Kenya). Today we return to Kenya and our destination of the day is Lake Nakuru - the country's 4th largest city 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 45-46 : Lake Naivasha



Lake Nakuru - Lake Naivasha. This morning we game drive within the park on the look out for the elusive leopard and black rhino as well as buffalo, giraffe and hippo. We spend another night at EAMO before transferring to Naivasha on day 46.

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

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bike ride around Hell's Gate National Park  
**Overnight - Nakuru (1) Naivasha (1)** (B:2, L:2, D:2)

## Day 47 : 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)



### 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.

### 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.**

### Dove's Nest Guest House

Located a stone throw from OR Tambo Airport, the Doves Nest Guest House is conveniently located guests wanting to relax after a long day of exploring Johannesburg's highlights. Each room features an electric blankets and TV. Breakfast and internet are available, as well as a free airport shuttle.



### 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.

### PRICES / DATES 2020

Date	Twin Share	Single
05 May	ZAR 51,900	ZAR 102,800
02 Jun	ZAR 51,900	ZAR 102,800
30 Jun	ZAR 51,900	ZAR 102,800
14 Jul	ZAR 52,900	ZAR 103,800
28 Jul	ZAR 52,900	ZAR 103,800
25 Aug	ZAR 52,900	ZAR 103,800
22 Sep	ZAR 51,900	ZAR 102,800
20 Oct	ZAR 51,900	ZAR 102,800
17 Nov	ZAR 51,900	ZAR 102,800
15 Dec	ZAR 52,900	ZAR 103,800

### PRICES / DATES 2021

Date	Twin Share	Single
04 May	ZAR 54,800	ZAR 108,600
01 Jun	ZAR 54,800	ZAR 108,600
29 Jun	ZAR 54,800	ZAR 108,600
27 Jul	ZAR 55,800	ZAR 109,600
24 Aug	ZAR 55,800	ZAR 109,600
21 Sep	ZAR 54,800	ZAR 108,600
19 Oct	ZAR 54,800	ZAR 108,600
16 Nov	ZAR 54,800	ZAR 108,600
14 Dec	ZAR 54,800	ZAR 108,600

### PRICES / DATES 2022

Date	Twin Share	Single
11 Jan	ZAR 50,900	ZAR 50,900

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updated on 26-05-2020 11:37:26

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