Kenya and Tanzania Component

MAKE TRACKS FOR AFRICA

This information pack has been put together so that you can prepare for your overland tour. It has been developed over many years of experience overlanding. Please read it carefully.

Departure dates for the Kenya and Tanzania Component

Departs Nairobi	Finish Nairobi	Price
14 Jun 2026	27 Jun 2026	£2760
14 Jul 2026	27 Jul 2026	£2760
23 Jul 2026	05 Aug 2026	£2760
08 Aug 2026	21 Aug 2026	£2760
07 Sep 2026	20 Sep 2026	£2760
05 Oct 2026	18 Oct 2026	£2760
12 Dec 2026	25 Dec 2026	£2760
09 Jan 2027	22 Jan 2027	£2760
08 Feb 2027	21 Feb 2027	£2760
13 Jun 2027	26 Jun 2027	£2760
04 Jul 2027	17 Jul 2027	£2760

Countries visited: Kenya • Tanzania

Highlights: Sheldricks Elephant Orphanage • Giraffe Park • Rift Valley • The Masai Mara • Elsamere for afternoon tea • Lake Naivasha • Hells Gate National Park • Hippo cruise • Crater Lake Sanctuary • Nakuru National Park • Serengeti National Park • Ngorongoro Crater • Maasai Boma • Hot air balloon safari.

Safari structure: A two week overland journey visiting game park after game park allowing you the very best chance to see the big five and more in world famous game parks - the Masai Mara, Serengeti,

Ngorongoro Crater and Nakuru National Park. With the opportunity as well for a hippo cruise, a cycle through the haunting Hells Gate, an overnight Maasai stay and visits to Nairobi's Elephant Orphanage and The Giraffe Park. Our tours are made up of components and so on this tour you may meet travellers with more or less time who will travel with you for shorter or longer sections of our full route through East and Southern Africa.

Index

Back to Index

Please click on any of these section names to go straight there.

Safari departure dates and details	Page 1
Flights	Page 2
Insurance	Page 3
Visa requirements	Page 3
Pre and post safari information	Page 4
Health and immunisation	Page 7
A detailed guide itinerary	Page 9
Money and budgeting	Page 12
Optional Activities	Page 15
Packing - what to bring, packing advice incl. electrical equipment	Page 16
Life on your big yellow truck (Including advice on safety and security, trading and donating, general code of conduct, keeping in touch)	Page 18
Safety and security on safari	Page 20
The migration	Page 23
Wildlife chart	Page 24
Further reading	Page 25

Flights

When arranging your flights we suggest that you arrive the day before this overland safari begins.

At the end of the trip, we usually arrive into Nairobi early afternoon on the last day. Return flights should be arranged to depart late evening of the last day (no earlier than 6pm) or a day after your safari is scheduled to end.

There are many airlines that fly in and out of Nairobi's international airport from hubs all over the world. Try looking at Kenya Airways, British Airways, KLM/Air France, Virgin, Lufthansa, Qatar Airways, Emirates, Swiss Airlines and Ethiopian Airways.

At certain times of the year, flight availability can become very limited and if you delay your booking, you might have to pay a higher price. Please organise your flights as soon as you can once you decide to travel.

We can help you with a flight quote. Please feel free to call the office if you would like assistance.

A friendly Reminder – When purchasing your flights, check whether your flight ticket already includes departure tax (if applicable) for the country you are flying out of at the end of your trip. If it does not, remember to keep the necessary funds aside in USD to make this payment.

Insurance

Back to Index

Your safety and enjoyment when travelling with Absolute Africa are of the utmost importance to us, which is why it is essential that you have arranged adequate travel insurance to cover your whole trip.

We are happy to introduce you to specialist insurance brokers Campbell Irvine, underwritten by AWP P&C SA. The cover includes a 24-Hour Worldwide Emergency Medical Service who are expert in providing friendly and professional emergency help.

Click on the following link to the page on our website to find out more:
www.absoluteafrica.com/Insurance

Do note that it is a condition of booking that you have contacted your insurers to confirm that the cover you have arranged is appropriate for ALL your requirements, taking into account the remote nature of overland travel, and that any hazardous activities you may intend to undertake are fully covered, including whitewater rafting on grade 5 rapids, scuba diving, trekking Kilimanjaro, volunteer work, and bungee jumping.

When selecting insurance carefully consider the cancellation policy, as well as cover for any valuables you might take. If you buy insurance in the UK you should check that your policy is valid if you are a non-UK resident and the provision for one-way travel if this is required.

Remember when traveling it is important to take all sensible precautions in regards to your security, safety and health, including taking precautions to avoid illness such as malaria. We advise you to make an appointment with a travel clinic as soon as possible after deciding to travel. Your travel insurance might also be affected by the relevant government's Travel Advice for the countries on your route. Do stay up to date with the latest official government Travel Advice.

Visa requirements

Back to Index

Your passport needs to be valid for at least 6 months after your trip finishes. Ensure as well you have adequate pages in your passport for each country you visit. As a guide then, for the Kenya and Tanzania Component you will want to have a minimum of 4 blank pages (sides).

If you have dual nationality you can only use one passport for the entire trip, but bringing both passports is a wise back-up strategy. You can find more information in the different country listings on the FCO's website (www.fco.gov.uk) under 'entry requirements'. Do be aware it can be illegal to travel in Africa on two passports.

At present please note that all travellers must apply for an eTA (electronic travel authorization) for Kenya prior to arrival. This is 30 USD.

Visas for Tanzania for most passport holders including British, Australian, New Zealand, Irish, South African, German, French, Dutch, Canadian and American passport holders can be arranged in Africa en route. Visas bought in Africa can only be paid for in US Dollars cash.

Please check https://www.absoluteafrica.com/Visa for more information.

Below is an estimation of current visa requirements and their cost:

Passport	**Kenya**	**Tanzania**	**No of Visas**	**Total Value US$**
Australian	$30	$50	2	$80
New Zealand	$30	$50	2	$80
South African	-	-	0	$0
Canadian	$30	$50	2	$80
American	$30	$100	2	$130
British	$30	$50	2	$80
German	$30	$50	2	$80
Dutch	$30	$50	2	$80
Irish	$30	$100	2	$130
French	$30	$50	2	$80

The above information covers current visa requirements for British, Australian, New Zealand, Irish, South African, German, French, Dutch, Canadian and American passport holders only. If your passport is not detailed above please do not hesitate to contact the office if you would like further details of your visa requirements.

Be aware that visa requirements can change without prior notice. This information is given as a guide only. We do ask that you also check your personal current visa requirements with the relevant embassies well in advance before you travel. For more information on visas check out www.projectvisa.com and https://www.absoluteafrica.com/Visa

Pre and post safari information

Back to Index

Joining in Nairobi

The Kenya and Tanzania Component safari departs from both the Heron Hotel at 8.30 am on the departure date, and from the Wildebeest Eco Camp at 9.15am.

We can reserve accommodation for you prior to departure in Nairobi at the Heron Hotel, Jakaya Kikwete Road or Wildebeest Eco Camp, Mokoyeti Road West, which is about an hour from the Heron Hotel, depending on traffic.

Accommodation options

THE HERON HOTEL

Rooms are en suite and room service is available. There is an e-mail cafe as well as a swimming pool and a restaurant. The restaurant is open from 7.00 am for breakfast. There are also individual electronic safety deposit boxes in every room and this is inclusive of the accommodation.

Prices for the Heron Hotel are
11,000 KES for a single en-suite room including breakfast
14,000 KES for a double en suite room or twin share en suite room including breakfast.

Airport transfers can be arranged to the Heron Hotel . Prices are:
US$35pp (4,550 KES) for 1 person
US$20pp (2,600 KES pp) for 2 people

The Heron is payable on arrival in Kenyan Shillings or by credit card (Visa and MasterCard)

Cancellation penalties apply for ‘no show’ unless 24 hours notice is given. If your arrival in Nairobi is delayed, please ensure you contact the Absolute office or the Heron Hotel in Nairobi.

Alternatively Wildebeest Camp offers slightly cheaper accommodation.

WILDEBEEST ECO CAMP

Wildebeest is a permanent-tented camp with dorms, budget rooms and safari tents including en-suite, based in peaceful gardens. Prices include a simple breakfast.

Wildebeest is payable in Kenyan Shillings, Euros, USD, GBP and credit card. Credit card payments attract a 5% charge.

The camp has a restaurant, bar, internet, and lockers in the dorms. Breakfast is served from 07:00am.The showers are usually hot.

Prices for the Wildebeest Camp are:

Dorm	40 USD
Single Garden Tent	56 USD
Double Garden Tent	88 USD
Single Cottage Room	88 USD
Double Cottage Room	120 USD
Single En-suite GardenTent	104 USD
Double En-suite Garden Tent	136 USD

All prices include breakfast.

Airport transfers can also be arranged to the Wildebeest Campsite payable in KES. Prices are:

US$20 - 25 (2,500 KES) for 1 person
US$15 - 18 (1,500 KES) pp for 2 people

If your arrival in Nairobi is delayed please ensure you contact the Absolute office or the Wildebeest campsite in Nairobi.

Wildebeest campsite require 30 days notice to cancel a booking. All bookings cancelled within one month of arrival will be subject to a 100% cancellation fee.

Please note that all prices quoted in USDs are an approximation. Prices can vary dependant on the foreign exchange rate of the day.

A day trip in Nairobi

If you wish we can arrange an extra safari for you the day prior to departure.

Nairobi National Park
Lastly we can arrange a half-day visit to Nairobi National Park which is the oldest park in Kenya. Lion, gazelle, oryx, zebra, giraffe, buffalo, cheetah and leopard are seen regularly, as well as rhino.

Price: On request

Other options to consider before your safari

Climb Kilimanjaro
Climb to the “roof of Africa”, Kilimanjaro. A range of trekking routes are available. For further details contact us or visit http://www.absoluteafrica.com/kilimanjaro.lasso

Kilimanjaro is just an hours drive from Arusha so many climbers arrive 7 to 9 days before to head up Kilimanjaro or alternatively instead trek after their safari.

We also tailor beach stops on Zanzibar island and the Kenyan coast

Beach Stays on the Kenyan Coast
Arrive a few days early to unwind on the white beaches of the Kenyan coast. Prices from U$22 pppn in simple beach tree huts. Please contact us for further details.

Beach Stays on the Zanzibar Island

Rather than travel back to Nairobi on the last day of the trip, you can head to the beach after leaving the game parks.

We can arrange for a stay in traditional Stone Town, and on the sunbleached beaches of Zanzibar.

For further details contact our office and feel free to visit:
www.absoluteafrica.com/summary.lasso?trip_code=ZI01

Departing Nairobi

On the departure date we will collect you from either from The Heron Hotel, Nairobi, at 8.30 am, or Wildebeest Eco Camp at 9.15 am, depending on your location. We then head up country to Nakuru.

The crew will organise a meeting on day one to go through all the basics you need to know about your safari, including health, hygiene, security and safety procedures. Please ensure you read the relevant sections in this dossier carefully. The crew will also organise rosters and tent partners, show you how to put up your tent, and answer any questions you may have. There will probably be many aspects of going on an overland camping safari in Africa that will be very new for you, so do listen carefully.

Your crew are there to do all they can to help. Please feel free to discuss any matter with them. Do remember you are on a group trip and it is as valuable to listen to other people’s ideas, as it is to contribute your own. Your crew have been trained and do know your route. They will facilitate group discussions and will advise to the best of their abilities.

Important pre-safari details

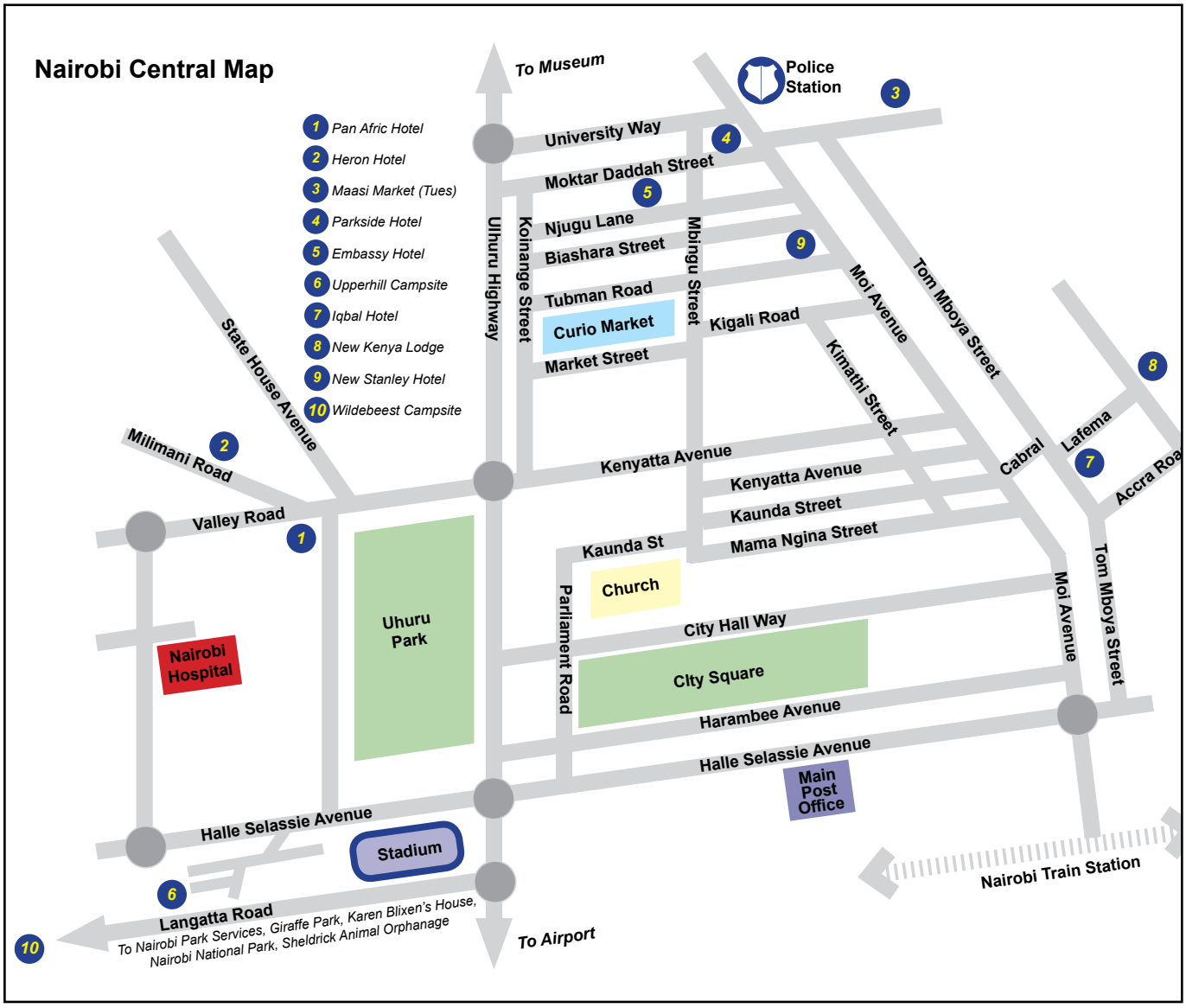
Upon booking this overland tour, we will e-mail you a form, so you can advise us of all your booking requirements in Nairobi. Can you also update us on this form of any change in your details and confirm your insurance details, if you know these when booking.

Whilst staying at the Heron or Wildebeest, remember to look for last-minute messages in the foyer from your crew. Do protect your valuables at all times.

Flight departure

Check in as early as possible prior to your departure time: your flight ticket will indicate how early you should check in. When checking in you may need to show your Booking Voucher to demonstrate that you will be leaving Kenya on safari. Please remember to carry this with your personal documents.

Arriving in Kenya – Jomo Kenyatta International Airport, Nairobi
At the airport, the signs are in English and Swahili. There is always a bank open for international arrivals.



You will find a bank to your right after you collect your backpack before you go through customs. You should change up enough money into Kenyan shillings for what you need until you meet the truck or can next get to a bank. Do remember you need to pay for any meals you will have before the trip starts, including breakfast for the morning of the departure, as well as your accommodation and transfers prior to departure.

NB: For rough budgeting/banking purposes, in Kenya the exchange rate is currently 1US$ =129 KES (March 2026)

Travelling into Nairobi: The airport is situated 15 km from the centre of Nairobi. The easiest way to get into town and to the Heron is to use a taxi. For your own personal safety and security, do not get the local bus into town.

If you would like the Absolute Office to order a taxi for you ahead of time so that there is someone waiting for

you at the airport, do let us know using the previously mentioned form.

Alternatively the information desks at the airport can help you with taxis, which can be hired at the front of the airport. Do ensure your cab is licensed and appears in reasonable working condition. Remember also to confirm the fare before you climb in the cab.

Do be aware that anyone offering to assist you with your bags at the airport will expect a tip. You can say no politely. Expected tips for assistance with bags are around 100 KES. It is wise to have a small amount of change readily available.

The end of your safari

The Kenya and Tanzania Component finishes in Nairobi, Kenya, the early shuttle usually arriving into Nairobi by early afternoon on the last day.

You can get dropped at the airport or in town at the Heron Hotel or the termination point in the city centre. From here you can take a taxi to any other point in the city.

If you are spending time in Nairobi we can assist with booking accommodation for you as well as day excursions in Nairobi.

If staying at Wildebeest Eco Lodge, you should budget approx. 20 USD for a taxi from the city centre.

Health and immunisation

Back to Index

Prior to departure it is essential that you contact a specialist travel medical clinic. Clinics such as Nomad Travel Stores and Medical Centre in London will provide you with the latest recommendations for travel in Africa.

You will need to have the required immunisations and start a course of anti-malarials prior to departure for this trip. Traveling to Africa will expose you to diseases and health hazards that you may not have come across before, such as malaria and waterborne parasites including bilharzia. You must consult a medical professional who specialises in travel medicine before you depart to discuss where you will be traveling in regard to the above, your immunisation schedule and any other requirements. Remember to start your vaccination program in good time, so that it is completed before you go. About six weeks is usually adequate, depending on how up to date you currently are.

Ensure you are well informed about any health concerns en route so you can stay fit and healthy to relax and enjoy your trip. The Lonely Planet publishes a medical travel guide for the region that may be of interest called ‘Healthy Travel Africa’.

You may also like to check out the following websites:
www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk, www.dh.gov.uk

Suggested travel clinics in the United Kingdom
Nomad Travel Stores and Clinics
Tel: 01341 555 061

- 11 S Molton St, Mayfair, London W1K 5QP, UK
- 65 London Wall, London, EC2M 5TU

There are also Nomad clinics in Bristol, Cardiff and Manchester.

Visit www.nomadtravel.co.uk for further information.

If travelling from Australia, Fiji, New Zealand, South Africa or destinations in Asia we recommend you contact Travel Doctor/TMVC. Their websites are at:

www.traveldoctor.com.au
www.traveldoctor.co.nz
www.traveldoctor.co.za

There are travel clinics in many of the big centres in Australia, New Zealand and South Africa, as well as in Thailand, Singapore, Hanoi, Bali and Nadi.

Suggested immunisation requirements (This is only a guide!)

The immunisations usually suggested for this safari are:

- Yellow fever – Vaccination must not be left any later than 10 days prior to departure and you must be able to show proof i.e. carry your certificate of vaccination with you.
- Typhoid
- Polio
- Tetanus
- Hepatitis A (three months)
- Meningitis
- Diphtheria
- Tuberculosis
- Other Suggested Immunisations – Hepatitis B, rabies.

It is essential to take a course of anti-malarials. It is best to discuss the type of anti-malarial medication you should take with a travel clinic such as Nomad. They will have the latest information on which medication is most effective in the countries through which you will be traveling. They can also advise on possible side effects and which drug might best suit you. Do follow all medical advice given with your prescribed medication. Do be aware that some anti-malarials can have negative side effects and also that your choice of drug needs to be appropriate to protect against strains of malaria specific to the regions in Africa through which you are traveling.

The choices usually suggested are:
Larium, taken x 1 a week
Doxycycline, taken x 1 a day
Malarone, taken x 1 a day

Do think about how to set up a reminder system for yourself so you remember to take your medication. If you are taking a daily medication as an anti-malarial, do remember also to carry it with you on the plane in your hand luggage.

As well as your anti-malarials, you will need to bring a number of other medical items in a simple Personal Medical Kit. Medical kits can usually be bought at travel clinics. Alternatively lists as to the types of items you are advised to carry can be found in the ‘What do I need to bring on safari?’ section on page ?

General information on avoiding malaria

The best way to avoid malaria is to guard against being bitten by mosquitoes and stick strictly to your chosen medication regime. To protect yourself from being bitten:

- Cover exposed skin thoroughly in insect repellent, such as DEET, from dusk to dawn, and reapply it regularly. When applying with sunblock, put it on top of the sunblock.
- Ensure you carry enough DEET with you to Africa. It is not easy to get hold of mosquito repellent once on the road.
- Always sleep under a mosquito net or in a secure tent with all zips zipped up.
- Wear impregnated wrist and ankle bands.
- You may wish to treat clothing with permethrin.

Do be aware also your insurance cover may well assume you are on a recognised course of anti-malarials. If you don’t take a recognised anti-malarial, it may affect your cover.

Other medical issues

You are reminded that the incidence of HIV AIDS is very high in the countries through which we travel. Sexual contact and dirty needles are the main ways that the disease is spread. Do take all necessary precautions. Use condoms. If you have to have any kind of injection, do ensure that the needle is unwrapped in front of you.

You are advised also that the waterborne bilharzia parasite is present in many bodies of fresh water in Africa. Bilharzia can be serious. Once diagnosed it is treatable but of course it is best to avoid getting infected. We recommend that, on your return home, you have a medical check-up, including a blood test

particularly to check for bilharzia.

Please ensure you contact a travel health clinic prior to departure for the most recent professional medical advice. The above is given as a broad guide only.

Remember it is a condition of booking that you let us know upon booking or at the earliest opportunity if you have any medical conditions, and particularly if you are on regular medication.

It is wise to know your blood group particularly when travelling in the Third World. As this is the case, as a precaution on day 1 your crew will ask for your blood type can you please have this information avaible for them.

Detailed itinerary

Back to Index

Days 1 – 2: Nairobi, Kenya to Nakuru

On our first day we meet you in Kenya's capital, Nairobi.

We get straight on the road, heading for Nakuru. Travelling through the spectacular Great Rift Valley, we stop at the Lookout spot for sweeping views across the region. You may also be tempted by the curio markets here. We have our Departure Meeting on reaching camp.

The following day we enter Nakuru National Park to head out on game drives in smaller vehicles with a local guide.

Nakuru is famous for its flamingo population. Thousands, and at times, millions of greater and lesser flamingos can be found here on the Lake, attracted to the algae and plankton that live in the warm alkaline waters in which they feed. The park is also a sanctuary for both black as well as white rhino, and boasts lion, leopard, Rothschild's giraffe, waterbuck, impala and buffalo.

We have a full day game drive in this small treasure of a park.

Distance, Day 1: 162 kms
Est. Drive Time, Day 1: 4.5 hours
Meals: X1 Breakfast, X2 Dinners

Included wildlife activity: Full day game drives in Nakuru National Park
Vehicle for game drives: 4x4 minivan with pop up roof

Days 3 - 4: Nakuru to Naivasha

We arrive in Lake Naivasha to relax for a couple of days. On the way we stop over at a children's orphanage.

Naivasha is a freshwater lake and is the highest of the lakes of the central Rift Valley. We have a few choices of activities to enjoy over the next two days including a visit to the Crater Lake Sanctuary and taking afternoon tea on the grassy lawns at Elsamere (home to the late Joy Adamson of "Born Free" fame) where the resident troop of black and white colobus monkeys might entertain us. A hippo cruise is also arranged to enjoy the wildlife of the lake.

A cycling safari in Hell's Gate National Park is another option. This is a great opportunity to stretch your legs out in the wilds of Africa. Cycle amidst zebra, gazelle, eland, hartebeest, Thomson's gazelle and impala in spectacular and arid surrounds featuring volcanic plugs and the dramatic red cliffs of columnar basalt heading through Njorowa Gorge. A visit to the Maasai Cultural Centre deep in the Park also provides insight into the Maasai people.

Distance, Day 3: 70 kms
Est. Drive Time, Day 3: 3 hours incl. a stop for shopping

Meals: X2 Breakfasts, X2 Dinners

Included wildlife activity: Hippo cruise on Lake Naivasha, conducted in a small boat

Optional excursions: Cycling in Hell's Gate National Park, guided walk to Crater Lake Sanctuary, Elsamere for afternoon tea

Day 5: Naivasha to Loita Hills

After our two nights by Lake Naivasha we head out on the bumpy and dusty road for the remote plateau of the Masai Mara, Kenya's premier game park. We stop at Loita Hills, home to East Africa's ancient tribespeople, where the Maasai give us a warm welcome with traditional singing and dancing.

We spend this afternoon with a walk in the hills with the Maasai warriors, learning about their culture and the surrounding nature, and trying out some "warrior training". We visit the local hot springs and a women's village. This evening the warriors show us how to light the campfire and we find out more about their fascinating culture.

Distance: 154 km
Est. Drive Time: 5 hours incl. stop for shopping
Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Dinner

Days 6 - 7: Loita Hills to the Masai Mara

Up early, we say goodbye to our Maasai hosts and set off on the road to the Masai Mara.

The Mara is perhaps best known for being part of the setting for the famous wildebeest migration; a mass movement of up to approximately 1.7 million wildebeest, accompanied by approximately 200,000 zebra and 350,000 Thomson's gazelle. The migration involves a journey covering 3,000 square kilometres, the equivalent of circumnavigating Britain and Ireland. The ever-vigilant predators, particularly lion and hyena, closely follow the herds.

Here, we have our first game drive in small 4x4s with a local guide on the renowned stage of the wildebeest migration. We are on the watch for all the wildlife for which Africa is famous from elephant to lion, cheetah, zebra, giraffe, hippo, crocodile, gazelle and warthog.

We take our game drives by Landcruiser in this impressive National Park. A balloon safari can also be arranged the following day in place of the morning game drive if you wish to view the wildlife from a totally different perspective. We then have a further game drive later in the day, using every moment we can in the park.

Distance: 60 kms
Est. Drive Time: 2 hours
Meals: X2 Breakfasts, X2 Dinners

Included wildlife activity: Morning game drives in the Masai Mara (x2), Afternoon game drives in the Masai Mara (x2)
Vehicle for game drives: 4x4 landcruiser with pop up roof

Optional excursion: Balloon safari

Day 8: Masai Mara to Nairobi

Today we depart for the drive back to Nairobi.

We enjoy a hot shower this evening and then head out for a fun night out in one of Nairobi's famous restaurants.

Distance: 300 kms
Est. Drive Time: 6.5 hours through to Nairobi upon leaving the park gate
Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Dinner (contribution to evening restaurant meal in Nairobi)

Optional excursion: Dinner in a restaurant

Day 9: Nairobi

This morning we visit the Giraffe Centre and the Elephant Orphanage; our first chance to get up close and personal with some of Africa's most loved animals.

Langatta Giraffe Park was established in 1979 to protect and educate people about the rare Rothschild's giraffe. Set in the grounds of a traditional manor house - "Giraffe Manor" - it is possible to hand feed the giraffe and from a specially created wooden walk way we come so close that we are in kissing distance with these gentle giants!

Following the visit to the Giraffe Park, twe stop Sheldrick's Elephant Orphanage where we view the morning feeding session of the small elephant orphans as well as the fun of the elephant play sessions, these being an essential part of the program to assist in the survival of these highly social animals.

The rest of the day is free to explore the city or relax back at camp.

Distance: 0 kms
Est. Drive Time: 0 hours
Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Dinner

Included wildlife activity: The Giraffe Park, Sheldrick's Elephant Orphanage

Optional excursions: Karen Blixen museum, Kazuri bead factory

Day 10: Nairobi to Arusha, Tanzania

We depart Nairobi early to drive south across the vast Athi plains dotted with whistling thorns, a landscape so characteristic of this part of East Africa.

Crossing into Tanzania at the bustling Namanga border Maasai sell beaded trinkets, jewellery and carvings.

Heading to Arusha, with a little luck we view Kilimanjaro - at 5,895 metres it is the world's largest freestanding mountain.

On reaching the town of Arusha, at the foot of Mount Meru, we stop in Arusha's town centre for shopping and to change money before making our way to tonight's campsite. We have a briefing tonight to go through what to expect on the next few days safari in the Tanzania parks.

Distance: 278 kms
Est. Drive Time: 6 – 7 hours (depending on the border)
Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Dinner

Day 11: Arusha to Central Serengeti National Park

Leaving camp early this morning in our 4x4 open top land cruisers, we travel towards Ngorongoro Conservation Area which sits beside the Serengeti. The drive takes us through rolling plains and traditional Maasai herdsmen can be seen throughout the region tending cattle and goats.

At the edge of the Crater rim we have superb views across the ancient caldera, before descending to the flat grasslands of the Serengeti. Across these two reserves wildlife viewing is exceptional.

We arrive at Naabi Gate, the official entry to the Serengeti by mid afternoon. Here there is an excellent chance to view Africa's renowned wildlife from hyena, lion, leopard and cheetah to elephant, hippo, giraffe, wildebeest, zebra, antelope and much more across the 14,000 square kilometre park.

The seemingly endless plains of the Serengeti are the stage for the famous wildebeest migration too. This is Siringitu for the Maasai – "the place where the land moves on forever". On the annual migration 1.7 million wildebeest and other game including zebra and Thomson's gazelle move on mass between the Mara, Ngorongoro Conservation Area and the Serengeti. The rains and the endless search for water and good grazing drive this movement. To encounter one of the countless wildebeest herds in a bleating,

snorting, dust-kicking motion on migration is an experience of a lifetime.

We game drive through the afternoon. Kopjes - small hills of rocks - are favourite vantage points for lion dozing in the sun from where they keep an eye out over the vast grassy plains. We spend the night camped in the heart of the park with our fire burning and sounds of the African wildlife filling the night air.

Distance: 325 kms
Est. Drive Time: 6 hours including time in the Conservation Area, then game drives through the afternoon
Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Lunch, X1 Dinner

Included wildlife activities: Drive through Ngorongoro Conservation Area, Afternoon game drive in Serengeti National Park
Vehicle for game drive: 4x4 land cruiser with pop up roof

Day 12: Central Serengeti National Park to Ngorongoro Crater Rim

We are up at sunrise this morning to explore further into the park, in the hope of seeing one, if not all, of the famous Big 5 animals that inhabit this park, and much more. Viewing is often best early in the day.

Big cats and other predators always capture the imagination. Regularly blonde-maned lions can be seen nonchalantly lazing on the rocky outcrops or lolling in the shade. With a little luck cheetahs can be found pacing the open grasslands. Leopards can be located resting up in the buffalo thorns and sausage trees that line the Seronera River. Spotted hyenas, bat-eared foxes and jackals also roam Serengeti, as well as the Conservation Area.

After our morning game drive we return for lunch at the Gate before leaving the plains area, to continue our journey through the Ngorongoro Conservation Area and up into the more mountainous terrain around the Crater rim.

A visit to a Maasai boma is arranged during which Maasai warriors perform the traditional jumping dance for us.

Our overnight camp tonight is high on the rim of the Ngorongoro Crater. We are at altitude here, so wrap up warm tonight.

Distance: Game drives, then 163 kms to Ngorongoro Crater rim
Est. Drive Time: Game drives through the morning and slow transit in afternoon
Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Lunch, X1 Dinner

Included wildlife activities: Morning game drive in Serengeti National Park, return drive through the Conservation Area
Vehicle for game drives: 4x4 land cruiser with pop up roof

Optional excursions: Maasai Boma, balloon safari over the Serengeti

Day 13: Ngorongoro Crater Rim to Arusha

As the low clouds clear from the Crater rim we take the journey down to the floor of Ngorongoro, for the chance to see more wildlife including the Big Five - lion, leopard, elephant, rhino and buffalo.

We spend the morning in this perfectly intact volcanic caldera and the world's largest extinct volcano. On the Crater floor we find a garden of Eden full of all the wildlife for which Africa is famous - rhino, hippo, lion, elephant, hyena, buffalo, zebra, gazelle, impala, wildebeest, ostrich, flamingo, and many, many more. Plain's game peacefully graze. Hippopotamus are found lolling in the pools and Lake Magadi can be rimmed with the pink of greater and lesser flamingo.

We travel back to Arusha via the village of Mto Wa Mbu, where Maasai display their ebony carvings, spears and beadworks and if there is time we stop in one of the market stalls for shopping.

Back in Arusha we all enjoy a final group barbecue to celebrate our experiences over the last few days.

Distance: 195 kms
Est. Drive Time: Game drives through the morning in Ngorongoro Crater, then 5 hours to our Arusha camp in the afternoon
Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Lunch, X1 Dinner

Included wildlife activity: Morning game drives in the Ngorongoro Crater
Vehicle for game drive: 4x4 landcruiser with pop up roof

Day 14: Arusha to Nairobi

Today we bid farewell and travel back to Nairobi by shuttle bus. We can arrange drop off at the airport or a central location in the city. Alternatively we can drop you at Arusha or Kilimanjaro Airports or transfer you through to Moshi or Marangu if Kilimanjaro trekking.

Distance: 278 kms
Est. Drive Time: 6 - 7 hours (depending on the border)
Meals: X1 Breakfast

Please note safari itineraries are given as a guide only. A safari is a journey and true journeys in Africa unfold and are of an adventurous nature, the unexpected can arise, so do allow for this. Feel free to give us a call about your safari plans. We look forward to having you onboard.

Money and budgeting

Back to Index

What is included?

THE PRICE COVERS:

- Entry and game drives in The Masai Mara (2 days)
- Entry and game drives in Nakuru National Park
- Serengeti and Ngorongoro National Parks - 2 night 4 x 4 safari (entry & game drives over 3 days)
- Lake Naivasha
- Hippo cruise
- Maasai village visit incl. bush walk
- Sheldrick's elephant orphanage
- Giraffe Centre

AS WELL AS:

- Camping for 13 nights
- Breakfast (x13),dinner (x13) lunch (x3)

AS WELL AS:

- A fully equipped and dieseled expedition truck/vehicle including all camping and cooking gear, a fridge, gas cooker, tents, sleeping mats etc.
- Services of a driver, cook and safari leader
- The ongoing advice and back up from The Absolute Team
- All road tolls and taxes are paid

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- Flights including taxes
- Optional excursions as listed
- Pre and post tour Add Ons as well as airport transfers and accommodation
- Lunch and drinks throughout except where detailed in the inclusions
- Other incidentals including for tips, internet use, upgrades from camping and the occasional cheap excursion such as local walks
- Visas
- Extra equipment including sleeping bag, torch and medical kit

- Personal travel insurance
- Vaccinations and anti malarials as required

When working out the costs for your overland safari remember to budget for the following::

Before you go…
1. Your price
2. Your airfare
3. Immunisation and anti-malarials
4. Insurance
5. Equipment
6. Visa/Entry requirements required ahead of time

Step off the plane in Africa with…
7. Optional activities and spending money – This is very individual and often depends on what you spend on drinks, snacks and souveners. A suggested budget would be 280 - 380 USD.
8. Visas on the ground - Up to 100 USD depending on nationality
9. Pre and post safari costs

Please note: You need to carry money with you out to Africa to cover Items 7 to 9 (i.e. for your spending money, optionals, visas on the ground and pre and post safari costs). The figures above are conservative estimates for average spending per person on safari. There is always some variation in how much spending money individuals need as it is dictated by personal choice.

We have no control over local operators' charges and new or other options that become available after our date of printing. Nor can we control exchange rate fluctuations, which can impact on budgets as some items are only payable in USD or are cheaper when purchased in USD. USD often tends to be the preferred currency. Figures quoted are based on regular information we receive from operators, passengers and crew in the past 12 months. You are advised that prices do go up and down very regularly. Our aim is to keep you informed of the most recent prices. In general you will often find that whilst some prices are underestimated at other times they are overestimated.

How do I take this money to Africa?

We strong recommend that you organise the money you are wanting to take to Africa before you leave for your trip. Clients are currently organising their cash for their safari as follows

USD cash
We are finding clients find it most convenient to take between 400 - 500 USD cash on this trip. This includes money for your visa payments, some optionals and occasionally to buy local currency when you can't get to a bank or forex bureau, assuming you are also carrying some sterling or euro cash to use for purchasing local currency for spending money as well.

Pounds and Euro cash
You may also like to carry up to 100 GBP or EUR cash as well if your money is currently in sterling or euro. This can be useful to buy local currency when you can get to a bank or regular forex bureau. If you are not in sterling or euro consider carrying more USD cash.

When arranging your cash remember small denominations can be useful but the larger denominations will give a better exchange rate. You should also request that your notes are not torn, written on or damaged in any way.

Please note that in general USD notes need to be dated 2013 onwards and in good condition. When arranging your USD cash a range of denominations is probably the most convenient including 5 USD and 10 USD notes as well as 20s, 50s and 100s.

Sterling and euro are best carried as 20s and 50s to be used to buy local currency when you can get to a bank or forex bureau. Please note also that Scottish pound notes are not accepted.

When you arrive in Nairobi, you should change up enough money into Kenyan shillings to cover all your

personal needs, such as accommodation, transfers and meals including breakfast for the first day before you meet the truck. Please note breakfast is not provided on the first day of the safari.

As you spend about a week in Kenya and sterling and euro can attract good rates at times, we would strongly recommend you change up 100 GBP/EUR at Nairobi airport when you arrive if your money is currently in sterling or euro. Otherwise change the equivalent in USD.

Cash is carried at your own discretion and should be organised before you leave for Kenya.

Other including ATM access
Note that it will be possible to access ATMs en route if you have a debit (Maestro) card or credit card (Visa and master card)

Do be aware where ATM access is available you can usually only draw local currency which cannot be used for all your costs. Many of your costs such as the local payment, visas and some of the optionals can only be paid in USD cash. Please note as well that Visa is the preferred card to use for payments.

Travel cards and cash passports are not well known and not widely accepted so not recommended to bring.

Do note that ATMs are not always reliable as they can be out of money, broken or the power could be out so do not solely rely on ATMs.

Other things to note in regards to organising your money for Africa

It is not often possible to obtain many of the relevant African currencies prior to going, and where it is possible the rate is usually poor.

Your crew will let you know where is best to change up as you enter each country into their local currency. It is best not to organise any local currencies prior to arriving.

For your information the currencies you will meet are:

Kenya – Kenyan shilling
Tanzania – Tanzanian shilling

Your crew can advise you as to what you will need, where exchanges/banks are available etc. as you travel. You will need to consider as you travel what optionals you will wish to do as well as how much you'll require for your personal needs.

This trip is structured so that most of your costs are "pay as you go" via some of the optionals and your spending money. This allows you to control your budget and only pay for those things you wish to do. Overland trips have been costed this way for many years and for a number of reasons - partly as prices for some optionals can vary a lot month to month, partly as some optionals are quite seasonal, partly as different clients like to do different options and partly as banking in Africa is quite difficult. Doing it this way you also know that your money is regularly going directly to local operators on the ground in Africa. Do remember also to carry what you need for before and after the safari on top of the above budget.

Personal spending money
The amount you might need for spending money is quite individual and variations in budgets depend largely on how much you spend on souvenirs and drink, as well as on lunch and snacks. You may also need to spend on personal costs such as email, toiletries etc.

At lunchtime on the road we encourage you to get out independently to mix with the local community, shop in the markets or try a local cafe. This allows you to do your own thing for lunch. In East Africa you will find that, in many villages when we stop for lunch, the locals will bring lunch to you - samosas, nuts, fruit and hard boiled eggs - all brought to the side of the truck by street vendors and all sold without you having to leave your seat! Or try meat or chicken kebabs or a local favourite, the chip omelette. Drinks are cold and plentiful.

The current recommendation to carry as personal spending money for this safari is 200 - 280 USD. This figure is a regularly updated average that has been provided by the crew and recent clients. Some weeks you will spend more and other weeks less.

Tipping: You may like to consider tips for good service, particularly at some of the main highlights such as

after the Serengeti and Ngorongoro Crater. You may find that you want to organise these tips as a group or individually. If eating out in restaurants, a 10% tip is a good guide to follow.

Crew tips are certainly not expected although the Absolute crew do work incredibly hard and often much of this work is done 'behind the scenes', before or after the group is up and about. A tip or small gift is always appreciated and is also a way to show your appreciation of their efforts if you have had an enjoyable trip.

Do budget carefully to ensure you have adequate spending money to cover all eventualities and enjoy all you wish to do once out in Africa, bearing in mind that it is very difficult to access money from overseas once you are on the trip. Remember also to budget for whatever pre and post safari arrangements you might also have in mind.

Optional activities

These excursions are paid for in Africa. Please contact us if you would like further information about any of these activities or excursions. Many of the optionals are payable in Africa in US$ (cash). A few may be payable in local currencies. (Prices guide only as at March 2026).

KENYA

Staying by Lake Naivasha

- Hells Gate National Park half day cycle trip 55 USD
- Crater Lake Sanctuary walk 55 USD
- Elsamere for afternoon tea (1050KES) 12 USD
- Add on guided walk with boat cruise 30 USD

TANZANIA

- Maasai village 10 USD

Further information in regards to optional excursions and spending money

Paying for excursions in Africa allows you to decide what you wish to do as you travel. Bear in mind that some activities can be seasonal. Please note also that prices constantly fluctuate in Africa, partly due to exchange rate fluctuation. The above figures are the very latest currently available to us at the time of writing. They can be taken as a reasonable guide only. Any optionals under 20 USD will be covered by your personal spending money quote.

Updates on the price for all optional excursions are usually available in the update information we send out about two months before departure. Do check on-line for the latest copy of this document as well. Do be aware though that you are covering an enormous amount of territory on this trip and visiting many destinations, and consequently you may well spend a lot. Africa is 'not cheap" particularly when you add in game park entry fees and the cost of adventure sports such as tandem sky diving, whitewater rafting, scuba diving and the gorge swing. Much of what you see though will afford you priceless memories and allow you to be actively involved to the limit. And remember that the money you spend also enables much-needed cash to go to local people and wildlife conservation.

The optionals listed are usually those most clients wish to do. If you choose not to do an optional activity, do bear in mind that this is your chance to catch up on washing and communications, read, relax and take time for yourself. During these periods the truck is usually parked up at a campsite where there are adequate facilities for you to be quite comfortable while you wait. Your crew will also, when possible, help you with alternative activities – e.g. safe places to take local walks that might be available throughout the route, swim, cycle, hire a canoe, kick a soccer ball around with the local kids, go fishing, camel ride, visit the local markets or post office, a cinema, a museum, golf course, church, club or coffee shop.

There is a range of availability of things to do from destination to destination on the itinerary. At some places there is a lot of choice and either/or optional choices. At other destinations, which are quieter, there are fewer choices if you do not opt for the listed optional excursion/s. This is worth noting particularly for optionals that last over one or two nights as you may not wish to be on your own at a campsite for an extended period.

If you would like further details of any of the different optionals for the safari please do not hesitate to contact the office. It is a group participation safari so it is worthwhile thinking and planning ahead as to what you personally might like to do and to work out a realistic budget accordingly.

Please note also every safari is individual and it is not possible to detail all the possible optionals you will have a choice to do nor to predict new options that can arise. We will endeavour to provide another accurate price update for you just prior to departure. Please also note though that we have no control over local operators' prices or government taxes. Nor do we just select operators only on price; many factors have to be weighed up when selecting operators. We are always keen to get information on new operators and the best prices but do be aware that deals come and go constantly in Africa. Consistent service delivery and safe and respectful ethical practices are also worth searching for and rewarding. Your crew will work very hard to ensure you get the best value for money day to day on the road.

If you would like any assistance in regard to your budget please do not hesitate to get in touch with us.

What do I need to bring?

Back to Index

We ask that you carry your possessions in one large backpack, travel bag or soft suitcase (65 to 85 litre maximum). Day to day necessities can also be kept in an additional day bag, which should be large enough to carry your needs for a couple of days at a time. Please note we reserve the right to refuse any extra baggage and sending it home or storing it will be at your own cost.

You should carry your valuables in a flat money belt which you wear against your skin.

Do remember traveling light is always wise and particularly when going overland. Passengers also often buy a lot of African souvenirs on the way.

The vehicles have good storage capacity to carry souvenirs and lockups in the vehicle for your valuables, pack and day bag. There is a locker under your seat for easy access for day to day essentials.

The following list details essentials as well as non-essentials. It is a guide only. If you are unsure about specific items please feel free to ring us.

You need to bring:

- Travel documents including passport (including relevant visas if you need to purchase a visa ahead of time) and air tickets
- Booking Voucher with Final Receipt - essential for immigration purposes
- Vaccination documentation, particularly for yellow fever shot
- Insurance policy
- US$ for your optionals and spending money
- Credit or debit card - preferably Visa

Other items to consider

- Student/YHA card
- Photocopies of main documents (keep separately)

Essential camping equipment

- Sleeping bag and sheet.
- Eating utensils, including cutlery, cup, plate/bowl.
- Torch and batteries, a head torch being the most useful.
- Mosquito repellent (DEET) 50% strength – up to x2 bottles
- Insect repellent spray
- High-factor sun block cream
- Lip salve/Chap Stick
- Padlock
- Small personal medical kit including: anti-malarials, vitamin tablets, paracetamol, antibiotic powder, Band-Aids, cotton wool, sterile gloves, flu medication for coughs, colds and sinuses, rehydration salts, sports injury cream for sprains, an antihistamine, immodium, treatment for tummy bugs, stings/bites and sunburn and eye drops. If you wear contact lenses you are advised to carry disposables.

Other items

- Pocket knife

- 1 litre water container. Make sure it screws tight.
- Non plastic bags for wet items, rubbish and to keep items dust-free
- Towel and anti-bacterial soap
- Condoms
- Tissues
- A means of securing your hair back is useful such as a bandana, a scarf, beanies, hair ties and clips as it can be windy driving on the truck.
- Cigarette lighter
- Concentrated travel washing liquid or washing powder, clothesline
- Emergency sewing kit
- Tweezers, nail scissors, nail brush

You will probably find it worthwhile to pick up a cheap blanket once you arrive.

In regards to toiletries these are available to buy in Africa including shampoo, soap, toilet paper and tampons. Please note though they can be quite expensive and it can be time-consuming sourcing particular items so carry these with you if possible.

Ensure you bring any medications you might require with you with the script.

The two most common gynecological problems that may occur whilst traveling in Africa are thrush and urinary tract infections. If you know you are prone to either of these it may pay to seek advice from your doctor and bring the necessary treatments. Loose fitting, cotton underwear and clothes are always wise.

Consider bringing
- Binoculars
- Pillow
- Wet Ones can be useful
- Books
- Writing paper, pens

Electrical items
- Mobile phone
  Text messaging can be a good way to stay in touch with the outside world. Remember if you are on international roaming the charges will be very high to make and receive phone calls.
  If communication is very important to you, sim cards can be purchased very cheaply on the road so do ensure your phone is unlocked before arriving in Africa if you plan to do this, whilst coverage is not always good on this tour
- Smartphone/Music player including headphones if you want to listen to your own music
- Camera in a protective case and spare memory card(s)
- For SLR cameras we recommend a telephoto of 120 mm (or similar) or an 80-200 mm zoom
- 2 camera batteries
- Polarising filter/lens hood for SLRs
- USB cable – to connect to internet cafes or for downloading
- Camcorder

Charging your equipment
If bringing a camcorder, digital camera, iPod or mobile, your equipment can be charged from the truck. The trucks have 600 watt Intelligent Power Inverters converting 24v DC to AC mains electricity (220-240v). This will be sufficient for charging any photographic equipment required. Remember to bring all necessary cables.

You will also want to bring a mains international adapter to charge at campsites as an alternative. A spare battery pack, where possible, is also advised.

Clothes
Please double check the weather conditions for your particular safari when packing. Cotton and loose fitting items are preferable. Do also realise that any white clothing won't stay that way!

- Lightweight cotton clothing, shorts and T-shirts as well as shirts with long sleeves and long pants including casual wear for nights out. Long pants, sarongs and sandals are fine for these times
- Lightweight waterproof jacket and a fleece

- Swimming costume, sun hat, sunglasses, sandals
- Lightweight closed-in comfortable walking boots, shoes or trainers with a non-slip tread which give enough support and good traction. Please avoid shoes that get too heavy and hot, ‘platforms’, high heels or ‘strappy’ sandals
- Spare shoelaces

We would encourage you to bring clothes that will wear well, as traveling in Africa is very hard on clothes. Conditions are rough and belongings do get dusty and can get damaged. Soft bush colours are most suitable. Being able to layer clothing that can be removed easily as the day heats up is an advantage. This also helps to keep valuables inconspicuous. Clothes with zip and velcro pockets are sensible. Due to the bumpy road conditions women are advised to bring at least one sports bra. Women should dress ‘modestly’, respecting the sensibilities and attitudes of the people and countries they are visiting.

Life on your big yellow truck

Back to Index

Day to day it is essential that everyone helps out with every routine chore. The trips are participatory in nature - the more you put in to the group and the trip the more you will get out of it. Overland safaris are very much about everyone willingly getting involved and working as a team. A roster is established for duties. Tasks you will need to be involved in are: cooking, assistant to the cook, washing up, cleaning the truck, filling the jerry cans, lighting the fires and truck guard duty.

It is essential in order to keep to schedules that you listen at group meetings to know what is happening and when, on the following day. Please follow all instructions carefully in regard to border crossings. Your truck will also usually have a small notice board with information as to what is happening for the next few days. For the group to function well you do need to keep informed as to what is happening and use group meetings to help the group work together. Please feel free to discuss any matter with the crew and to use group meetings. Do remember you are on a group safari and it is also as valuable to listen to other people’s ideas as well as contribute your own.

On a daily basis you are encouraged to look out for each other and be considerate of everyone else’s needs and wishes. Your group will be made up of individuals all wanting to get the most out of their trip and at the same time each of you will have your own specific likes and dislikes, needs and wishes. These are group adventure camping safari, not a 5 star holiday! A sense of humour and patience are essentials to pack! The group experience of seeing your safari through together on the truck is one of the really exciting and fun aspects of the trip. For some, the group experience and day to day life on the truck becomes a main highlight.

Often on the road you will be up early for breakfast. Wherever possible, you buy lunch in local markets and you then have opportunities to mix in with the local community and organise anything you need to including ensuring you have enough drinking water. Remember how important it is to keep up your fluid levels during the trip. Please note we cannot guarantee the provision of regular clean drinking water from the truck throughout the safari and you do need to organise your water day to day. At most campsites the truck can easily access clean drinking water and you will find the water carried on the truck is often drinkable. Where this is not the case it is advisable to buy your own bottled water, which is readily available and most campsites now sell sealed bottled mineral water. When purchasing your water do check that the bottles are sealed.

Drive times in East Africa can be difficult to predict so do be prepared for the occasional situation when the plot changes!! Getting bogged is an essential optional extra...be prepared. And in general, be ready for some occasional long and dusty drives. These are based on ongoing and careful scheduling decisions to ensure you get to the current ‘must see’ places.

On the road there is always a lot to see but also too, you may like to bring some good books and an iPod to listen to your own music. The occasional long drives are deemed essential by crew to get you where you want to be in the time given.

Schedules and Itineraries
When you go on safari do remember our aim at all times is to enable you to have an experience of a

lifetime at an affordable price. Due to the nature of Africa - weather, politics, road conditions, lack of infrastructure, border restrictions, breakdown, sickness, etc. - it is not always possible to exactly follow departure/arrival dates and routes. The best plans can unravel and in a lot of ways that is all part of the adventure that makes your safari. Itineraries and truck schedules can be changed at any stage prior or during your safari particularly in consideration of crew needs, weather and road conditions as well as security concerns, truck servicing requirements and booking patterns. Whilst we do all we can to avoid making changes please note we do reserve the right to change vehicles and/or crew on a safari at any time without notifying passengers.

The trips are made up of components and quite often during the safari you will probably meet clients doing shorter and longer sections of your trip depending on the booking patterns for the months you are traveling. This works well so that friends can do shorter sections, different people come and go and the group sizes stay strong.

Camping
We supply large, durable three-person tents complete with ground sheet and separate waterproof flysheet, ideal for Africa's varied conditions. They also have mossie netting in-built at the doors and openings. These are used for two people only.

We also supply high-density foam roll mats.

All cooking equipment is supplied including pots and pans, gas cookers, a cool box, lighting, fire-grate, cooking bench, chairs and shelter. The truck also has a large fridge.

It is a participation trip and part of your every day routine will be to put up your own tent and be involved in all the daily chores on a daily basis including cooking and cleaning. For reasons of personal hygiene, we ask you to supply your own cup, plate and cutlery. You may wish to bring your own mossie net as well if you think you may wish to sleep out of your tent, particularly in the hotter months. It can become warm in the tents. Please note your net needs to be large enough to tuck in under your roll mat.

There is also the occasional opportunity to upgrade to dorm-style chalet or simple hut accommodation with a bed if you think you might need a break from camping. This usually costs about 20 USD a night. Availability though is very limited and you need to be considerate of everyone else on the truck. Do budget accordingly though if you might wish to upgrade once or twice en route.

The facilities in the campsites we use vary a lot. In general you will find campsites that are clean, may give a little hot water, and can have working flush toilets. Be aware though that water pressure is often very weak. Please do not come on your African adventure camping safari expecting pristine bathroom facilities...

You will find we may also camp in the bush a couple of times during this trip under the African night sky. Your truck is well equipped for these opportunities but be prepared to 'rough it' a little these nights and enjoy the chance to camp out in the wild.

Please remember when leaving a campsite we do expect you to be diligent to leave places as you find them if not better. In particular we insist that cigarette butts and toilet paper are not left behind when free camping... we are just visitors here in a continent with extraordinary challenges and dilemmas to face. Do be responsible as you travel.

Meals and cooking on the truck
Day to day meals are prepared from the truck using both the non perishable supplies we buy in bulk prior to the safari and fresh supplies we buy as we travel. Staying fit and healthy on safari is a priority as we do keep busy and we want you to enjoy all you do. Everyone takes turns on a roster basis cooking for the group, being 'assistants' to the cooks and with the clean up. The safari leader assists with menus, recipes and loads of ideas as well as being directly involved with cooking as needed. She/he is available to provide support and encouragement at any time during meal preparation. Cooking together is lots of fun and all part of the group experience! The sort of meals provided day to day are spaghetti and pasta dishes, stir fries, cottage pies, kebabs, curries, stews and casseroles, hamburgers or jacket potatoes, which are then complimented with rice and/or salads. Breakfast is usually fruits, muesli and/or other cereals, toast, as well as some regular cooked breakfasts like eggs, bacon, baked beans or pancakes.

Specialist diets
For vegetarians we do all possible to ensure a good supply of veggies, salads, fruits, beans, pastas and

rice. The diet leans towards vegetarian day to day, as fresh quality meat is not easily accessed every day. The staples are beans, pastas, pulses, and rice, as well as fresh fruit and vegetables when available and in season. In restaurants, when meals are ordered ahead of time, vegetarian options are available with usually good supplies of fresh fruits, veggies and salads. Do be aware though how well served we are in the West with our constant supplies of fruit and veggies regardless of the season. In reality, and more naturally, fruit and vegetable supplies are seasonal, may not be as chemically assisted and can also be difficult to access en route. We will do all we can to ensure supplies where possible.

We can also cater for gluten-free, vegans, wheat-free and dairy-free diets, supplying soymilk, rice noodles, gluten-free cereals etc.

When booking, do remember to let us know if you have any specific dietary requests.

Health, safety and security whilst on safari

Do follow all instructions given by your safari leader as to how to use equipment, move around on, and enter and exit the truck as well as how to maintain all supplies. Seat belts are fitted on the truck. For your travelling safety please use these. Please also follow all washing and cleaning procedures carefully to avoid infections being spread.

Do follow all instructions from local operators, wildlife authorities and your crew as you move around day to day. Watch for signs when in game parks and campsites as to instructions provided for your personal safety. At times you will be in the wild with wild animals. Always stay within the vehicle whilst you are in game parks and be alert to where to walk, where to wash, go to the toilet etc.

Traveling as a group also provides you with an added level of security day to day. Watch out for each other and stay constantly vigilant as to your own and your group's health, safety and security.

Personal safety

Day to day be very aware of protecting your cash and valuables at all times and do not walk around flaunting valuables e.g. cameras, jewellery and money. Remember even cheap jewellery can look expensive! Day to day, layer your clothing to keep valuables inconspicuous and take clothes preferably with zip and velcro pockets.

Money Belts - The most efficient money belts are ones that go under your clothing, against your skin. If you use a bum bag please only carry small amounts of local currency in it that you are prepared to lose.

Do not leave anything unattended anywhere - including in your tent - and avoid being crushed in large crowds. Be very careful when you walk after dark; never walk alone or become separated from the group. Take taxis in cities at night and around unfamiliar areas. When taking taxis always agree on a price before setting off.

Whilst in Nairobi before the start of your safari, all valuables should be kept on your body when not in a safe. Once you join the truck, valuables can be locked safely away in a safety deposit box, which is kept hidden within the vehicle.

In Kenya confidence tricksters are particularly common. Be wary of anyone with a hard luck story, asking for assistance, soliciting sponsorship (particularly educational) or anyone offering a deal to change money at favourable rates. In particular Nairobi is known as 'Nairobbery' so please make sure you stay alert at all times.

ATMs are becoming more accessible on the route, you must also be wary of security of crimes around ATMs. Be discreet when withdrawing cash and as always be very careful with your card and cash.

Truck security

Your truck will have a lockable safe in which to keep your passport and valuables. You will also have a lockable place on the truck to keep your day bag. Your backpack is stored underneath the truck. The truck is never left unattended. Do be aware on safari you will be required in certain locations to assist with watching that all is safe and secure with other passengers. Please note whilst all precautions will be taken in regards to valuables left on the vehicle we cannot be held responsible for any damage or loss from the vehicle.

Do listen carefully to all instructions regarding security issues given by your crew and local operators as

we travel. Before traveling you are also advised to keep yourself informed and up to date as to the current political situation in the countries through which we travel and to check out the Foreign Office Travel Advice. If you are a British, Australian or New Zealand citizen you may like to look at: www.fco.gov.uk, www.dfat.gov.au or www.mfat.govt.nz.

Remember this is a group experience you are booking. It is a condition of booking that you follow the group leader's instructions and take responsibility for your rostered tasks. It is important that every member of the group is attentive and looks out for each member of the group's health and security. All in your group will appreciate your co-operation with this.

Sickness
All our trucks have a medical kit, which has been put together by tropical expedition specialists for emergency use only. The foreign embassies throughout Africa provide English-speaking doctors for emergency situations. If you do become ill we will transport you as soon as possible to the nearest health clinic and your crew will do all they can to assist. You will always have a friendly escort

Photography
African authorities often require that tourists do not take pictures of bridges, airports, railway stations or military installations. We are often in areas where locals are not used to being photographed and we ask you to show them every courtesy. If in doubt it is always best to ask first.

Trading, donating and supporting

You may wish to consider if you want to bring items such as old T-shirts, sunglasses, cheap watches, old walkmans/discmans and mobiles to trade.

Please be aware we strongly discourage giving away 'something for nothing' from the truck, whilst we are very happy on the other hand to donate pens, books etc. to schools. Do note it is also very unwise to donate cash en route. If you wish to donate something whilst in Africa remember pens, crayons, balls, books, soap and stickers are always welcome in schools and orphanages. For more ideas feel free to contact us.

For projects we support check out the website or contact us.

Problems or issues you may have while on the tour

Where you have any issue at all during the tour, talk to the tour leader at the very earliest as this could affect the rest of your trip. The tour leader is there to help and they can't if you don't let them know the issue. Your driver is always happy to chat as well if the tour leader isn't available.

Remember as well these are group participation trips. Group meetings are there so everyone can talk about what's happening day to day so do raise any niggles or queries at the meetings.

If you do experience a problem while you are on the tour such as feeling unwell, not getting along with a fellow traveller or if there is something that you are unhappy with in regard to the running of the tour or anything else that is bothering you or stopping you from having an enjoyable trip, please do inform your tour leader directly of the problem as a priority. They will want to know. Once they know they can take the appropriate actions to resolve the issue as quickly as possible. All and any issues will be treated with the utmost confidentiality.

Everyone at Absolute Africa works very hard to ensure our travellers have the very best of trips. Should you have a continuing problem that you feel is not being addressed effectively it is your responsibility to email or contact the office at the very earliest. Detailing your concern in writing in an email is usually the best way to explain. We will then look into this immediately to see how the problem can be resolved so you can continue to have an enjoyable tour. Further details can be seen in our Terms and Conditions (14).

General code of conduct

Please remember we are all ambassadors for our respective countries and your behaviour should reflect this. An open mind, and a desire to have a positive impact, are vital attitudes to carry with you. A sense of humour is also an essential to pack for any safari in Africa.

Look out for each other in your group. Your safari is a group participation trip. Ensure you do all you can so that your group works well together.

Day to day be sensitive and aware of how you and your group are being perceived by those around you. Be alert to where you are, sensitive when taking photos, aware of how much noise we are making, careful of how you are dressed. Everyone wants to have the best time possible in Africa and there are plenty of chances to have a trip of a lifetime. Do please note excessive noise, obscenities and inappropriate behaviour cannot be tolerated. It can embarrass other members of the group and seriously upset those around us, particularly in campsites and restaurants. Be responsive and sensitive to the world around you.

Be particularly alert to the impact of excessive drinking as you travel. Alcohol abuse will put your health at risk, particularly in malarial zones. Please note alcohol is not to be drunk on the trucks.

There is also a strict no smoking rule onboard the trucks, and no-smoking areas will be set up for during meal times.

There are serious penalties in Africa with regard to illegal substances.

Game parks are a spectacular sight. Please be considerate and keep noise to a minimum. Everybody's game viewing on an ongoing basis is better served if our impact on a park is kept to a minimum. Do be attentive to all signs and instructions as to how to behave in game parks.

We won't leave a campsite until it is entirely clean. Your enthusiasm with packing up camp to ensure all is left clean is appreciated.

In a serious situation where behaviour is disruptive and/or dangerous your Safari Leader can step in and will remove you from the trip. Don't spoil your or someone else's trip.

Keeping in touch

It can be quite difficult and also expensive staying in touch whilst you are traveling in Africa. Please let your family know that this will be the case, particularly if you are usually in touch on a regular basis. In an emergency if your family needs to get in touch they should contact the Absolute office and we will do all we can to assist.

E-mail - you will be able to access email in Nairobi, Arusha and Zanzibar. Please note internet speed is quite often very slow so be warned!

Post - letters from the U.K. to Africa take approximately 10 - 14 days and from Australia or New Zealand to Africa approximately 2-3 weeks. Please be aware that articles regularly going missing in the post.

If you did need to have something sent to you while traveling please contact the office as to the best destination and address to use.

Please do not have anything of value posted to Africa en route, including credit cards or prescription drugs. We would also advise against having birthday and Christmas parcels posted. In an emergency if something needs to be got out to you, the Absolute office should be contacted for further advice.

Language

English is understood in most East African countries. Learning some Swahili will ensure a warm response from the locals.

The Great Migration

Back to Index

The migration covers over 3,000 kilometres on the combined stage of the Serengeti and Masai Mara plains. It is a constant movement of 2.5 million animals and may well be the highlight of your Safari (depending on the season). Follow the link for our chart, which will show you where you are most likely to see the migratory herds each month of the year: www.absoluteafrica.com/The-Migration

For information on where you should be able to see which animal, as well as other useful facts, check out the spreadsheet on the next page.

With such a huge variety of wildlife to see in Africa - we have put together a quick reference guide to help you plan your safari so you know what animals might be found in game parks in each country.

		Group Name	Average Gestation (months)	Average Life Span (years)	Status	Diet	Distribution as at June 2010									
							Kenya	Uganda	Rwanda	Tanzania	Malawi	Zambia	Zimbabwe	Botswana	Namibia	South Africa
BIG FIVE	Lion	pride	3.7	15	VU	C	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	African Elephant	herd	22	70	VU	H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Cape Buffalo	herd	11	17	LC	H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Leopard	solitary	3	20	NT	C	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Rhinoceros Black	crash/herd	6	35	CR	H	✓	×	×	✓	Reintroduced	Reintroduced	✓	Reintroduced	✓	✓
	White	crash/herd	6	35	NT	H	Introduced	Reintroduced	×	×	×	Introduced	Reintroduced	Reintroduced	Reintroduced	✓
	Cheetah	coalition	3	11	VU	C	✓	✓	×	✓	×	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Spotted Hyena	clan	4	25	LC	O	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	African Wild/Painted Dog	pack	2.5	11	EN	C	✓	×	×	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Blue Wildebeest (Gnu)	herd	8.5	20	LC	H	✓	×	×	✓	×	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Giraffe	herd/corps/tower	15	28	LC	H	✓	✓	Introduced	✓	×	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Plains/Burchell's Zebra	herd/harem	12	28	LC	H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Oryx/Gemsbok	herd	8.5	20	LC	H	×	×	×	×	×	×	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Sitatunga	herd/group	7.5	19	LC	H	✓	✓	✓	✓	×	✓	✓	✓	✓	×
	Greater Kudu	herd	9	7.5	LC	H	✓	✓	×	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Common Eland	herd	9.2	17.5	LC	H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Impala	herd	6.5	12	LC	H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Thomson's Gazelle	herd	6	10.5	NT	H	✓	×	×	✓	×	×	×	×	×	×
	Gerenuk	group	7	20	NT	H	✓	×	×	✓	×	×	×	×	×	×
	Dik-dik	monogamous pair	6	3.5	LC	H	✓	✓	×	✓	×	×	×	×	✓	×
	Warthog	sounder	5.7	15	LC	H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Mountain Gorilla	group/troop	8.5	45	EN	H	×	✓	✓	×	×	×	×	×	×	×
	Chimpanzee	group/community	8	50	EN	O	×	✓	×	✓	×	×	×	×	×	×
	Baboon	troop/congress	6	25	LC	O	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Golden Monkey	group/troop	5	19	EN	O	×	✓	✓	×	×	×	×	×	×	×
	Zanzibar Red Colobus Monkey	group	6	20	EN	O	×	×	×	✓	×	×	×	×	×	×
	Rock Hyrax/Dassie	colony	7	12	LC	H	✓	✓	×	✓	×	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Banded Mongoose	group	1.7	8	LC	C	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Common Genet	solitary	2.5	8	LC	O	✓	✓	×	✓	×	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Meerkat	mob/gang	2.5	13	LC	O	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	✓	✓	✓
	Hippopotamus	pod/herd	7.9	50	VU	H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Nile Crocodile	bask/float	3*	45	LC	C	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Common Bottlenose Dolphin	pod	12	20	LC	C	✓	×	×	✓	×	×	×	×	✓	✓

Status: LC = Least Critical, NT = Near Threatened, VU = Vulnerable, EN = Endangered, CR = Critically Endangered **DIET:** C = Carnivore, H = Herbivore, O = Omnivore * Incubation not gestation

Back to Index

Reading List

Back to Index

For those of you who want to read before you go, here are a few suggested titles:

The Africans	David Lamb
Malaria Dreams	Stuart Stevens
Out of Africa	Karen Blixen
Letters from Africa	Karen Blixen
Venture Into The Interior	Laurens Van der Post
A Good Man in Africa	William Boyd
The Grass is Singing	Doris Lessing
African Laughter	Doris Lessing
The Tree Where Man Was Born	Peter Matthiessen
African Silences	Peter Matthiessen
Cry the Beloved Country	Alan Paton
The Weather in Africa	Martha Gellhorn
Zanzibar	Giles Foden
I Dreamed of Africa	Kuki Gallman
The Scramble for Africa	Thomas Pakenham
Disgrace	J.M. Coetzee
The State of Africa	Martin Meredith
Blood River	Tim Butcher
The Zanzibar Chest	Aiden Hartlet
In the Footsteps of Mr Kurtz	Michela Wrong
River God and The Seven Scrolls, and other titles	Wilbur Smith
Africa on a Shoestring	Geoff Crowther
Healthy Travel Africa	Isabelle Young, Lonely Planet 2000

Lonely Planets, Bradts and Rough Guides are always a mine of information.

A 746 Michelin map will give you a good insight into where you are travelling.

A friendly note that conditions, prices and details change constantly in Africa and what may be appropriate and/or correct one day is not necessarily the case the next. Much time and effort goes into keeping this information as up to date as possible. At the same time do not treat this document as 'the bible' for your safari. It is a guide only to assist in steering you in the right direction.

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to get in touch. We are more than happy to assist.

Queries about your safari booking should be directed to Absolute Africa. We are available on Skype and Live Chat, or feel free to email us at our bookings office at bookings@absoluteafrica.com

10th March 2026