

56 Day Great African Trek

This trip begins in Cape Town, South Africa and travels north through South Africa, Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Malawi, Tanzania and Uganda before ending in Nairobi, Kenya.

This trip departs from Cape Town early on Sunday morning. Should you wish to explore Cape Town, ATC or your travel agent can assist you, in booking your activities as well as accommodation. However, costs due to earlier arrival, will be for your own account.

Trip code:	CN56
Accommodation style:	Camping
Length of trip:	56 Days
Starts in:	Cape Town, South Africa
Finishes in:	Nairobi, Kenya
Pre-departure Meeting:	Held at the Departure Point at 17h00, the day before your departure.
Departure point:	Ashanti Lodge & Travel Centre: 11 Hof Street, Gardens, Cape Town
Check-In Time:	07h30
Departure Time:	08h00
Countries visited:	South Africa, Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Malawi, Tanzania, Uganda, Kenya

PLEASE NOTE:

This itinerary should be used as a guide only and may vary from day to day depending on road & weather conditions, political situations and group decisions.

All prices & Local Payments are subject to change.

Due to Tourism Laws in some of the countries we visit, there may be a truck and crew change during the trip. Your arrival transfer and pre-trip accommodation in a dorm bed is included in your trip price. Should you choose not to make use of these, or in the event that ATC were not updated with your arrival details, no refund will be paid for services not used.

Please ensure you've received a copy of our pre-departure information document with information on what to expect on this overland safari.

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

This epic fifty-six-day safari covers all the highlights of nine countries in east and southern Africa. Stare into the soft brown eyes of a gorilla, watch thousands of animals trample the plains of the Masai Mara and the Serengeti, bask on palm-backed beaches on Zanzibar, and idle away sunny days on the banks of Lake Malawi. Further south is the thundering Victoria Falls, the vast wilderness of the Okavango Delta, the giant sand dunes in Namibia's Namib Naukluft National Park, and dynamic Cape Town, easily one of the most beautiful cities in the world.



INCLUDED HIGHLIGHTS

Wine Tasting, Half day canoeing on the Gariep (Orange) River, Fish River Canyon, Namib Naukluft National Park, Transfer to Sossusvlei, Swakopmund, Spitzkoppe (**day trip**), Etosha National Park, Okavango Delta Excursion, Chobe Overnight Excursion, Victoria Falls Entry, South Luangwa National Park, Lake Malawi, Zanzibar Ferry, Zanzibar Excursion, Spice Tour, Sunset Dhow cruise, Dar Es Salaam, Serengeti National Park, Meserani Snake Park and Cultural museum, Kampala & Lake Bunyoyini, Lake Naivasha, Lake Nakuru National Park, Great Rift Valley & Masai Mara National Reserve

SOUTH AFRICA

With nine different provinces, 11 official languages and 3 capital cities, South Africa will most definitely make you stop in your tracks and go – WOW.

Cape Area

Starting in the mother city, Cape Town has much to offer, such as the flat-topped Table Mountain, which is awesome for hiking and providing you with an aerial view of Cape Town. Then there is the pulse of the city – Long Street, which will provide you with all the food and entertainment needed on holiday. If that does not fulfil your holiday needs, the Cape area can provide you with a full day of education, sightseeing, breathe taking views and wine when partaking in a Winelands tour. A saying that will forever stick by us Capetonians – You don't need a holiday, you need Cape Town.

DAY 1: Cape Town to Cederberg Area (Lunch / Dinner)

We head around Table Bay and continue north through the wheat growing 'bread basket' of South Africa. We cross the Pienekierskloof Pass into the rich fruit growing area along the Olifants River, named for the vast Elephant herds that used to roam in this fertile valley.

Included Activity: Wine tasting at campsite

DAY 2: Cederberg Area to the Gariep River (Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner)

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

NAMIBIA

This sandy yet spectacular country gained its independence from South Africa in the year of 1990 and its largest city, also the capital city is Windhoek. This is a country of compelling beauty and wide horizons dominated by the brooding and desolate Namib Desert, which has the highest sand dunes in the world.



DAY 3: Gariep River to Fish River Canyon (Namibia) (Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner)

This morning we partake in a half-day canoe trip on the beautiful Gariep River, affording us the opportunity of some bird watching or just a scenic and relaxing paddle. After lunch, we cross into Namibia where, after a short drive, we reach the Fish River Canyon. At 161 km long, 27 km wide and about 550 m deep, it's the second largest canyon in the world. The outer canyon was formed by tectonic activity, while the erosion of the Fish River formed the inner canyon. A road follows the eastern rim, giving us access to several viewing points from where we enjoy the spectacular vistas.

Included Activity: Canoeing on the Gariep River

Fish River Canyon

Located in the South of Namibia, the Fish River Canyon claims the title of the largest canyon in Africa and the second largest in the world. Being approximately 160km long, 27km wide and just over 550m deep only allows for the brave and fit to take on the hikes and walks it has to offer.

Included Activity: A visit to the Fish River Canyon

DAY 4: Fish River Canyon to Sesriem (Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner)

An early start today, heading north we enter the area of the Namib-Naukluft desert, one of the oldest in the world. We base ourselves at Sesriem, a good place to experience the Namib and its many moods. A short distance away is Sossusvlei, surrounded by a dramatic sea of sand dunes reputed to be the highest in the world. Magnificent views of the desert can be seen from the top of the dunes, some over 300 m high. Make sure you look up at the stars tonight; the desert puts on a show like nowhere else in the world!

Included Activity: Namib Naukluft National Park

DAY 5: Sesriem (Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner)

This morning we enter the Namib-Naukluft National Park where we spend the morning exploring this amazing area. We take some time to climb to the top of Dune 45 - a truly memorable experience. Following our once in a lifetime experience you will then take the desert shuttles a further 5kms into the desert where you can take a walk to Sossusvlei and explore the surrounding area.

Sossusvlei – Sesriem Canyon

This salt and clay pan is surrounded by never ending sand dunes which form part of some of the highest dunes in the world. If all these dunes had the ability to be jealous, then they would all be jealous of Dune 45, due to its stunning view of the sunrises and sunsets and its photo geniality. Not being one of the largest or most popular canyons, Sesriem Canyon makes up for it with character. The name Sesriem was given to it by the settlers and is Afrikaans, it can be translated into "six belts". After coming back from their treks, the settlers would have to tie six belts together, attached to a bucket, in order to scoop water from the canyon.

Included Activity: Climbing Dune 45

Included Activity: A Visit to Sossusvlei

DAY 6: Sesriem to Swakopmund (Breakfast)

After breakfast, we head off in a north-westerly direction to meet the Atlantic Ocean at Walvis Bay. Our drive takes us across the Tropic of Capricorn – the 'imaginary line' that shows the southernmost point of direct sun, and signals the southern hemisphere's mid-summers day. From Walvis Bay, we follow the coast for some 35 km to arrive at Namibia's prime holiday resort - Swakopmund where we enjoy 2 nights of rest, relaxation and a little bit of adrenalin for those that are keen! Accommodation



will be in dormitories for the next 2 nights, upgrades into private rooms are possible, but depend on availability and can be booked with your trip leader.

DAY 7: Swakopmund (Breakfast)

Founded by the Germans in 1892, their colonial influence is still evident today. Swakopmund has a selection of excellent coffee shops, restaurants & bars as well as many arts and crafts shops selling Namibian curios. There are fine beaches to walk along as well as a great museum, aquarium and galleries to visit. Alternatively, the lovely beach and promenade make for a great relaxing walk – though bathing in the ocean waters may be somewhat chilly! Some of our fellow passengers may leave us in Swakopmund, to be replaced by new passengers joining us for the rest of our trip.

Optional Activities: Sky diving, quad biking, sand boarding, scenic desert flights, dolphin cruises, fishing trips, golf, horse riding and more. An activity briefing will be held on arrival in Swakopmund (see price guide at the end of this document).

DAY 8: Swakopmund to Brandberg (UIS) (Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner)

Our departure from Swakopmund takes through the ‘Matterhorn of Namibia’ – Spitzkoppe (**day trip**). The 1728m high rock formation, one of Namibia’s most recognised landmarks, is well known as an ancient San sacred site. Explore the surrounding area and its San rock paintings or simply enjoy the magnificent views. After our visit to Spitzkoppe we head off to our next destination – Brandberg.

DAY 9: Brandberg (UIS) to Etosha National Park Area (Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner)

Today’s drive takes us further north through the Namibian countryside to our campsite, located in the vicinity of Etosha National Park.

DAY 10: Etosha National Park Area (Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner)

We head to the area of Etosha National Park. Covering 22 700 km², Etosha is Namibia’s premier nature and wildlife reserve. Situated around the Etosha Pan with a large variety of animal and bird life, the extensive network of gravel roads affords us the opportunity of accessing even the most remote areas of the park. After lunch, and once it has cooled off a bit, we spend the remainder of the day exploring the park’s southern area. Keep an eye out for the striking Oryx and Springbok as these are endemic to desert National Parks! Tonight’s camp is situated just outside the parks boundaries, only 10kms from Anderson Gate. Perhaps a quick dip in the pool or a sun downer on the deck before dinner, followed by a relaxing evening in this interesting bar.

Optional Activity: Game Drive

DAY 11: Etosha National Park (Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner)

Today we make our way across the park, keeping a look out for the many different mammals, reptiles, birds and insects in the various regions. As the vegetation types change, so does the animal and bird life that relies on it, and so different sections of the Park offer a variety of different game options. After a full day of game viewing, we spend the evening relaxing at our camp in the north of the park, Namutoni. After dinner why not head to the waterhole where you can sit and observe the animals may come to drink in the evenings.

Included Activity: Game Drive in ATC Truck

Optional Activities: Night Drive



DAY 12: Etosha National Park to Windhoek (Breakfast & Lunch)

After our breakfast, we head out of the park while doing a game drive. Today's drive will take us through small rural towns and scenic landscapes. Nestled between the hills, Windhoek is a rather small capital city but has many places of historical interest. This afternoon is spent at your leisure with time to visit the local museum or haggling at the street side markets. There are also many shops for those in need of a bit of retail therapy.

Optional Dinner at Joes Beer house

DAY 13: Windhoek to Ghanzi (Botswana) (Breakfast /Lunch / Dinner)

This morning we depart early as we prepare to leave Namibia behind us as we enter into the beautiful Botswana. Ghanzi is a town in the middle of the Kalahari Desert. Optional activities include a number of activities to interact with the San / Bushman, and to discover how they survived in the Kalahari.

Optional Activity: San / Bushman experience

BOTSWANA

The size of this successful country can be compared to countries such as Kenya or France, and fairly smaller than Texas. Botswana is a landlocked country with borders such as South Africa, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe which can all be crossed overland. For such a small country, it boasts an array of spectacular game viewing opportunities such as, hundreds of elephants splashing in the Chobe River and the Okavango Delta and its maze of lagoons.

DAY 14: Ghanzi to Maun (Botswana) (Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner)

Maun is the starting point for travel into the Delta and it is from here that we set off to explore the Okavango Delta. Tonight, we prepare our provisions and packs for our overnight night excursion. We suggest bringing along a smaller daypack on your trip as this can be used to pack the supplies needed for this short excursion. Your trip leader will brief you fully on what is needed, and what to expect prior to your trip to the Delta.

OKAVANGO DELTA

The Delta is a huge expanse of water, which has travelled from the Angolan highlands, spreading out to form the largest inland delta in the world. Studded with exotic islands, The Delta is renowned for its incredible variety of bird life and animals and is unique to Southern Africa.

All you have to do is sit back, relax and have your camera as you get guided through the dozens of mazes. The Okavango Delta is a bird lover's paradise enjoyed by all, best explored by foot and mokoro. With over 400 species of birds, 70 species of fish and an abundance of wildlife, your experience in the delta will leave you wanting to explore the whole of Africa.

DAY 15: Maun to Okavango Delta (Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner)

Included Activity: Overnight Delta excursion

Here we have the opportunity to take the included overnight excursion into the Delta. After an early rise, we pack our expedition vehicle and from Maun we drive north for a couple of hours to reach the mokoro poler's station. The Delta region is studded with many local villages where many families live in a traditional way. Some of the villages are very remote and can only be reached by the traditional mode of transport – the Mokoro. Mokoros are dugout canoes manoeuvred through the waterways by local guides who "pole" them through the reeds. At the Mokoro station, we meet our 'Polers' and pack



our supplies before heading out into the waterways. After a couple of hours along the waterways, we arrive at our mobile tented camp situated in the heart of the Okavango.

On arrival, you will meet the local staff who will be your host during your stay. A brief introduction to the camp will show you your dome tent with twin beds and a **bush en-suite bathroom** – long drop toilet and a bucket shower. Relax in the tent with a cold drink or take a paddle in the Delta in a canoe. The activities at the camp include Mokoro trails and guided walking.

DAY 16: Okavango Delta to Maun (Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner)

After our Mokoro ride and vehicle transfer, we arrive back around lunch time and have the chance to complete our picture of the Okavango Delta by taking an optional scenic flight over The Delta (dependent on weather conditions & availability).

DAY 17: Maun to Nata Region (Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner)

We leave this beautiful part of Botswana behind us this morning as we depart to the lush campsite called Elephant Sands. The drive will take you through a very unpopulated landscape where the donkeys roam freely. Once we have arrived at our campsite you will have the option of partaking in a game drive or a bushwalk. Your crew will provide you with more information.

Optional Activity: Game Drive / Bush Walk

DAY 18: Nata Region to Chobe National Park (Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner)

We travel north to the town of Kasane where we set up camp on the banks of the Chobe River. The Chobe River forms a border between Botswana and Namibia and Zambia and is the main water source to the Chobe National Park. Elephant, hippo and many bird species can be viewed from the campsite while we watch another glorious African sunset. Listen out for the resident hippos!

DAY 19: Chobe National Park (Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner)

This morning we have a chance to sleep in or explore the town of Kasane. When we are packed and prepared, we leave for our Chobe National Park Overnight Mobile excursion – an overnight experience in the wilds of the Chobe National park. Chobe is one of Botswana's premier game parks, renowned for its large elephant herds. Spend the afternoon in search of wildlife while we game drive to our camp within the park where we spend the evening surrounded by the night-time noises of the local wildlife. Look out for the rare Sable and Roan Antelope on your game drive, with their majestic backward slanting horns, or try keep a count of the Lilac Breasted Roller's that swoop by! 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, and Victoria Falls.

Included Activity: Chobe Overnight Mobile Excursion

DAY 20: Chobe National Park to Victoria Falls (Zimbabwe) (Brunch)

Once returning to camp, we get back on our truck and continue to the border of Zimbabwe. Once we've completed border formalities, we have a short drive to the nearby Victoria Falls. Named after the famous World Heritage site and Water Falls, the town of Victoria Falls is situated on the Zambezi River and surrounded by the Victoria Falls National Park. Our campsite is conveniently situated in the centre of town, and within walking distance of the adventure booking agents, restaurants and shops. A short walk down the main road takes you to the entry point to view the falls, which are situated between Zimbabwe and Zambia. Victoria Falls, or Mosi-oa-Tunya (the Smoke that Thunders), was named by David Livingstone on his explorations, and is one of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World. At 1700 m wide and around 100 m high, this is the world's largest sheet of falling water and a memorable sight on any African Safari! After our adventure activities briefing (see price guide at the



end of this document for options), the afternoon is spent relaxing at the campsite, viewing the Victoria Falls, or exploring the many sights and delights of this town!

Included Activity: Entrance to Victoria Falls

ZIMBABWE

This landlocked country is situated in the southern part of Africa, between the mighty Zambezi and Limpopo Rivers. The word *Zimbabwe* is believed to have two meanings, 1) it is believed the word Zimbabwe is derived from dzimba-dza-mabwe, which means "large house of stone" in the Shona (Karanga Dialect) language. 2) It is also believed to be derived from the word dzimba-hwe which means venerated houses in the Zezuru dialect of Shona.

Victoria Falls

With so many exiting areas to explore within this beautiful country along with its enjoyable weather it makes it difficult to decide where to begin. The adventure activities in the town of **Victoria Falls** along with the Victoria Falls itself are an absolute must. Hwange National Park offers spectacular game viewing, while the Great Zimbabwe Ruins offers you a chapter out of Zimbabwe's history.

DAYS 21 & 22: Victoria Falls (Breakfast on both days)

The next 2 days are spent relaxing or participating in a myriad of Optional Excursions. Some of our fellow passengers will leave us in Victoria Falls, to be replaced by new passengers joining us for the next leg of our trek.

Optional Activities: Adrenalin junkies can bungee from the Victoria Falls Bridge connecting Zimbabwe and Zambia or abseil down the Batoka Gorge - neither activity is for the faint hearted! All year round, flights in fixed wing, micro light and ultra light aircraft or helicopters provide an aerial perspective over this magnificent World Heritage Site. White water rafting on the Zambezi is world class. Beside the excitement of the Grade 5 rapids, there are the "floats," where there is time to admire the scenic cliffs and the occasional wildlife on the riverbanks.

DAY 23: Victoria Falls to Chobe National Park, Botswana (Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner)

We head out from Victoria Falls to the border crossing to Botswana. Once we've completed the border formalities, we continue to the town of Kasane, situated on the banks of the Chobe River. The Chobe River forms a border between Botswana and Namibia and Zambia and is the main water source to the Chobe National Park. After lunch, we have time at leisure to relax.

In the afternoon, the clients that have not yet had the Chobe experience on the trip, will leave for our Chobe National Park Overnight Mobile excursion, while the clients that have already had the Chobe experience will stay behind and relax in Kasane. We will take care of accommodation and two daily meals. Clients that stay behind in Kasane, will receive a complimentary Chobe cruise for all trips that take place in 2019.

DAY 24: Chobe National Park to Livingstone (Zambia) (Brunch / Dinner)

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 an optional sunset boat cruise on the Zambezi River. Another fantastic photo opportunity!

Optional Activity: Sunset Boat Cruise



DAY 25: Livingstone to Lusaka (Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner)

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

DAY 26 & 27: Lusaka to South Luangwa National Park (Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner)

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

Included Activity: South Luangwa National Park

DAYS 28 - 30: Chipata to Lake Malawi Beaches (Malawi) (Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner)

Leaving Zambia, we cross into Malawi, the 'Warm Heart of Africa'. 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.

Spend the days learning the game of bao from the locals, scour the markets for a bargain or simply relax on the pristine beaches. Malawi's temperate climate allows for swimming in the clear blue fresh-water lake all year round. Explore the beautiful shore where you'll happen upon the local fishermen sorting their catch. Traditional fishing techniques are still practiced and to appreciate their boating skills, try to paddle a dugout canoe yourself! At night, you'll see the 'fairy' lights of the fishermen out on the lake. The various beachside campsites along Lake Malawi's shores offer many optional Excursions including a variety of water sports, horseback rides and a visit to the local village and school (see pricing guide at the end of this document).

MALAWI

A variety of attractions can be found in this exquisite country such as, forest, mountains and many a rural village, but there is one major attraction – Lake Malawi. There are many small rustic resorts along this fresh water lake where you can kick back on the sand, and enjoy the perfect sunset over this lake. Malawi will offer you the perfect sub-tropical climate, allowing you ample time to soak up the sun and work on that tan. Lilongwe is the largest city in Malawi, as well as the capital city. Malawi plays host to just over 12 million people, with English and Chichewa being the main languages.

Lake Malawi

Most your time in Malawi will be spent enjoying the white beaches and warm waters of Lake Malawi. Lake Malawi is also known as "the lake of stars", offering an abundance of water activities. With the staggering amount of 500 species of fish, this lake makes for an excellent spot for fresh water diving after meeting and greeting all the welcoming locals.



DAY 31: Lake Malawi to Iringa (Tanzania) (Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner)

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!

TANZANIA

Tanzania's natural environment and geographical features have made it one of the best tourist destinations in Africa. Being the biggest country in east Africa, Tanzania has heaps to offer her visitors, including 13 game reserves and national parks. Tanzania also forms part of the world's largest animal's movements, the great migration. Inland are the vast Serengeti National Park and the animal-packed Ngorongoro Conservation area, and thousands of people every year fulfil their lifetime achievement of climbing to the top of Mount Kilimanjaro, which is the highest mountain in Africa. On the coast, Zanzibar is exotic, intriguing and steeped in the unique Swahili culture.

DAY 32: Iringa to Dar es Salaam (Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner)

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

DAY 33: Dar es Salaam to Zanzibar (Breakfast)

A ferry from Dar es Salaam takes us to the "Spice Island," where we spend the next 3 nights. Zanzibar is steeped in history and was one of the major starting points for most East African explorers in their quest for new lands. New passengers may join us to replace those that'll leave us at the end of our excursion to Zanzibar.

PLEASE NOTE: Meals are for your own account whilst on Zanzibar, as it is our experience that passengers prefer to explore the island on their own, and in accordance with their own budget. The Trip Leader joins you and will arrange your activities, while meals can be enjoyed from a wide selection of restaurants. There are also a wide variety of optional excursions on offer – please see the price guide on the end of this document for more details.

PLEASE NOTE: New legislation prohibits the taking of photographs during the Zanzibar ferry ride. Spot fines can be issued, if legislation is not obeyed.

ZANZIBAR

With its picture-perfect beaches, hustle and bustle of locals, local markets and a huge variety of spice, Zanzibar makes for the perfect tropical holiday destination. Whether you are looking for a cultural experience, relaxing experience or both, Zanzibar and its people can provide it. Spice tours, prison tours, snorkelling, scuba diving and sipping cocktails are only a few of the many activities.

DAYS 34 & 35: Zanzibar

Included Activity: Zanzibar Excursion

Included Activity: Spice Tour & Dhow excursion



History aside, Zanzibar offers a wealth of experiences for the visitor. Today the quiet streets of the old Stone Town still retain their Arabic influence, from the Medina-like shops to the palaces of the Sultans, who founded their vast empires on the spoils of the slave and ivory trade. The island is famous for its spices and an excursion around a spice plantation is always a fascinating experience. Other options include a trip to the beautiful beaches and giant tortoises of Prison Island, a full day scuba dive in Nungwe or a fishing trip in a traditional dhow. Mopeds are available for hire if you'd like to explore the more remote areas of the island. Zanzibar is a seafood lover's paradise. Numerous restaurants offer a great variety of the freshest catch from the ocean - crayfish being a popular speciality. Alternatively, mingle with the locals for dinner at the Forodhani Gardens seafront market, where delicious, inexpensive seafood is on offer.

DAY 36: Zanzibar to Dar es Salaam (Dinner)

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.

Day 37: Dar Es Salaam to Pangani* (Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner)

This morning we leave early and leave the hustle and bustle of this major Tanzanian city, and head towards the farmlands of this beautiful country. Today is used as a transit day to get us closer to Serengeti.

* Some trips may choose to forego this night at their own cost.

DAY 38: Pangani to Arusha (Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner)

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

DAY 39: Arusha to Karatu (Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner)

Included Activity: Serengeti Excursion

This morning we visit the Meserani Reptile Park and Masai Cultural Museum. A few minutes' walk from the campsite is a gallery selling the bright and iconic Tinga Tinga paintings. Alternatively, the town of Arusha is nearby to explore. After enjoying lunch at our camp against the backdrop of Mount Meru we meet our Tanzanian guides and transfer into locally operated 4WD vehicles. These vehicles have been adapted for safari use and allow excellent viewing and photographic opportunities through the opening roof hatches.

Leaving our camp, we travel via the Masai town of Mtu Wa Mbu (Mosquito River) that lies adjacent to the Lake Manyara National Park and then up the Rift Valley Escarpment to the higher lying village of Karatu. Karatu offers magnificent views over the surrounding hills and has many well-established wheat farms that add to the picturesque panoramas. Tonight, we spend the evening at a very pleasant campsite in Karatu (campsite has ablution facilities).

DAY 40: Karatu to Ngorongoro Crater and Serengeti National Park (Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner)

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



After our game drive in the Crater, we head down the Crater rim and past the 'Cradle of Mankind' on our way to the Serengeti National Park. We cross the vast plains as we game drive through the southern and central areas in the park. Tonight, we camp (no ablution facilities) in the bushveld surrounded by the sounds of the African wilderness. Without any fences surrounding our campsite we are truly in the midst of nature!

Included Activity: Serengeti Excursion

Serengeti National Park & Ngorongoro Conservation Area

The *Serengeti National Parks* claim to fame is not only the annual migration of white bearded wildebeest and zebra, but also it is regarded as the best wildlife reserve in Africa due to its density of predators and prey. *Ngorongoro Conservation Area* consists of a large volcanic caldera, namely the Ngorongoro Crater. This massive crater is home to over 250 000 large animals, making it an attraction not to be missed.

DAY 41: Serengeti National Park to Arusha (Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner)

In the morning, we head off for another game drive and explore the landscape in search of the resident game. With some luck, we may see some of Africa's 'Big 5'! Following our morning drive, we retrace our journey back across the plains and along the lush Crater rim to our truck at Arusha, where we spend the evening musing over our thrilling wildlife experience.

DAY 42: Arusha to Nairobi (Kenya) (Breakfast)

We set off early this morning and make our way to the Tanzania/ Kenyan border and the small border town of Namanga. After completing the border formalities, we continue on our journey to the Capital City Nairobi and our campsite on the outskirts of the city.

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

DAY 43: Nairobi to Masai Mara (Lunch / Dinner)

Leaving the hustle and bustle of Nairobi we climb the escarpment to our first stop, a viewpoint overlooking a section of the spectacular Great Rift Valley. Descending into the Rift Valley, we enter Masai land where these habitual pastoralists are often seen tending their cattle from the side of the road. We pass through the town of Narok, and continue our drive possibly getting a glimpse of some wildlife along the way. We arrive at our campsite, Acacia Camp in the late afternoon. Acacia Camp looks on to the Meguarra hills and the stream that meanders by on the bottom end forms a natural border to the Masai Mara National Reserve.

DAY 44: Masai Mara (Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner)

We depart shortly after sunrise on our game drive into the Masai Mara Reserve. The Masai Mara is well known as one of East Africa's best National Reserves and is home to a wide variety of wildlife species. Most famous for the Annual Migration, that consists of the impressive herds of over 1 million wildebeest, zebra and Thomson's gazelle that cross over from the Serengeti National Park in Tanzania; the Masai Mara is most popular between July and October when these vast herds feast on the fresh grazing here. Following these herbivores are Africa's predators that are often seen at a kill during this period. We game drive through a section of the park in search of the 'Big 5'- elephant,



rhino, buffalo, lion & leopard; along with the many other species of animals, reptiles and birds who make call this wilderness home.

Included Activity: Masai Mara National Reserve

After our game drive, we have the option to visit one of the nearby Masai Manyatta's – this is a traditional hamlet where the Masai still live in their traditional way. This evening we sit around the camp fire, and watch the sun set over this "Garden of Eden".

DAY 45: Masai Mara to Eldoret (Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner)

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.

UGANDA

The "Pearl of Africa" as it is referred to by its people, is home to some of Africa's major attractions. This country contains four of Africa's seven great lakes, including Lake Victoria which is the second largest body of fresh water in the world. Lake Bunyonyi is one of these spectacular lakes with its mythical landscapes and hidden bays. The source of the Nile at Jinja allows you the opportunity to tame the mighty waters with some of the world's best white water rafting. And to top it all, this breathtaking country has the largest population of primates anywhere in Africa.

DAY 46: Eldoret to Kampala (Uganda) (Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner)

This morning, we cross the border into Uganda where we overnight in the capital city, Kampala. Uganda is a small country of striking physical beauty. Its landscapes vary from the fertile green areas around the northern shores of Lake Victoria to the snow-capped Ruwenzori Mountains in the west and the semi-desert region in the north. The political instability that has haunted Uganda in the past has actually had the positive effect of leaving the country free of the over commercialism so common in other parts of Africa. The current administration under President Museveni has devoted considerable effort and funds to return Uganda to its former status as one of Africa's most prosperous and, from a tourist's point of view, one of the most appealing and interesting countries to visit.

DAYS 47 - 50: Kampala to Lake Bunyoni (Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner)

After an early morning departure from Kampala we drive west into the depths of Uganda to our base at the tranquil Lake Bunyoni.

Lake Bunyoni, the deepest Crater Lake in Africa and home to a large and varied number of beautiful birds, is the base from which the optional Gorilla trek takes place. Dependant on where trekking permits are available, we trek in the Magahinga or Bwindi National Parks in Uganda, the Virunga National Park in the Democratic Republic of Congo, or the Ruhengeri National Park in Rwanda. The prices of trekking permits fluctuate and may change without prior notice – currently they are priced from US\$600 plus US\$105 for bank fees (both of these amounts need to be prepaid). And there is a local transport fee from US\$180 per vehicle to be paid in US\$ on the day of trekking. (this covers the return public transfer and the Wildlife Authority's booking fee).

For trekking in the DRC or Rwanda (the trip leader will advise at the pre-departure meeting as to where the permits have been secured, and will assist with the online visa application for Rwanda en-route if needed), we will also have to purchase an additional visa to enter either country, as well as renewing our Ugandan visa upon re-entry. We also advise budgeting a little extra for tips for the local guides and rangers. Please budget accordingly as payment for the permit must be made in US\$ cash at the pre-departure meeting.

Gorilla Trekking is OPTIONAL



Mountain Gorillas

The Mountain Gorillas are highly sociable animals, living in fairly stable groups, which are held together by long term bonds between males and females. These creatures come across as strong and powerful, yet they remain the shy and gentle giants of Africa.

Trekking Procedures: The mountain gorilla (*Gorilla Berengei*), of which there are still only about 700 remaining, are one of our closest living relatives. A visit to these gentle giants in their natural environment is a unique and wonderful experience - one you'll never forget. The park rangers monitor the gorillas on a daily basis and have a fairly good idea of where they are. However, they are free roaming animals, and their sighting cannot be guaranteed. As the gorillas share much of our DNA, anyone with even the slightest cold or transferable illness will not be permitted to trek. Trekking is also only open to people over 16 years old.

Due to the restrictions on the daily numbers of visitors to these incredible animals, we depart from our base in Bunyoni in small groups over 3-4 days, depending on the group size. We wind our way through arguably some of the most picturesque scenery in Africa en-route to the National Park. Dependant on where permits are available, we may spend a night in either Kisoro or in Rwanda. The following morning, after packing our picnic lunch, we are transferred to a ranger's station where the trek commences. Your rangers will lead you through the cultivated lands and then into the dense rain forest and on to a gorilla family. Trekking can take anywhere from 45 minutes to 8 hours (not including transfer time) and it can be quite strenuous, so a reasonable level of fitness is required. To ensure the gorillas do not get too used to the presence of humans and because they share many of our genes (and therefore able to catch our diseases), the maximum time permitted to spend with them is 1 hour. You will have plenty of time to watch their activity and to take photographs. The rangers will be able to provide you with a background to the family you are visiting. Once your hour is up, you trek back out of the rain forest to your meeting point where you will be transferred back to the Lake Bunyoni campsite.

You needn't feel like you're exploiting these animals. The ever-growing number of tourists trekking them each day play a vital role in their survival. For years they have been ruthlessly hunted for their hands and heads, which have been sold as ashtrays and lampshades! In addition, large numbers have been killed whilst trying to stop poachers stealing the babies for sale to zoos, where they have never lived long. 100% of the gorilla permit cost is used to by the parks authorities to finance patrols that are instrumental in protecting the gorillas from poachers and their lethal snares and on promoting these wonderful animals.

Depending on where the trek takes place you may also pass through some of the local villages that have settled in this region due to the high number of refugees fleeing from the Rwandan Genocide, or from the continued unrest in the DRC. The villagers in this area are mostly subsistence farmers, and families that farm against the slopes of the volcanoes. It is impressive to see how they have ploughed, planted and harvest their crops in such an unlikely landscape.

DAY 51: Lake Bunyoni to Kampala (Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner)

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!



DAY 52: Kampala to Jinja (Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner)

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.

Jinja and the Nile River

Jinja was established in 1907 and is Uganda's second largest city after Kampala and is located near the source of the Nile River, Lake Victoria. There are many activities that one can do in this area, such as white-water rafting, jet boating and even bungee jumping.

DAY 53: Jinja to Nakuru (Kenya) (Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner)

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

DAY 54: Lake Nakuru National Park (Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner)

This morning we begin our exploration of the Lake Nakuru National Park. The park was established as a sanctuary for black and white rhino, which are often seen. We spend the day searching for these pre-historic looking beasts as well as the elusive leopard, encountering buffalo, giraffe, various antelope and the occasional hippo along the way. After our game drive, we head to our campsite, arriving in the late afternoon.

DAY 55: Lake Nakuru to Lake Naivasha (Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner)

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 day enjoying optional excursions like Elsamere (former home to Joy & George Adamson of Born Free fame), a boat ride to the Crescent Island Game Sanctuary or a bike ride around Hell's Gate National Park.

DAY 56: Lake Naivasha to Nairobi (Breakfast)

After breakfast, we head back to Nairobi usually arriving by late morning, or early afternoon.

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

WHAT IS NOT INCLUDED?

International flights, Airport departure taxes, Departure transfer, Visas, Meals, water & drinks unless otherwise stated, Travel Insurance, Laundry, Gorilla Trekking Permit, transfer to gorilla trek, personal Items, Tips, Sleeping bag, pillows & bottled water.

Meals on tour

Meals and menus vary as food is purchased en-route, and is subject to produce that is available seasonally in the areas we travel through. Our safari cooks are able to offer a wide variety of menus with the ingredients available, even if the produce on offer is not of the same selection as what you may be used to back home.

The breakfast spread consists of bread (toast when time allows), spreads and cereals with a hot breakfast every few days. Lunches are mostly prepared en-route with a supply of 'build your own' sandwich ingredients available. Dinners are cooked in the evenings on arrival at the campsite. A wide array of dinner menus is on offer during your safari, consisting of curries, stews, pastas, and BBQ's!

Transport on tour

Our overland vehicles are custom built converted trucks that have seating space for our passengers and a storage area for luggage and all trip equipment. The trucks seat between 24-30 passengers on our camping trips. Most seats are forward facing, though some models have a combination of forward, backward and some inward facing seats with tables. Vehicles have sliding glass windows, and the seating area is raised providing a great advantage for game viewing and photography. Seats are cushioned and there is storage space for personal items like cameras, snacks and day packs in the seating area.

Participation on tour

All of the tours operated by ATC are participation trips meaning that all passengers are expected to help out around camp. The crew members running the trip will set up a rota system that will be followed. One day you may be on cleaning duty, the next day you may be on cooking duty and so forth. This is not only to make the trip easier for all involved but also for you as the passengers to get to know one another while on trip.

Social Media on tour



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| #africatavelco |

The staff and management look forward to welcoming you aboard and trust that you will enjoy your trip with us!

Please feel free to email us at sales@africatavelco.com with your trip comments, or post a review on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram. | #africatavelco |

“Safari Njema”
