



**ABSOLUTE
AFRICA**

The Garden Route Safari

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 Garden Route

Depart Cape Town			Arrives Johannesburg			Price
06 Dec	2019		20 Dec	2019		£1255
19 Feb	2020		04 Mar	2020		£1255
02 Apr	2020		16 Apr	2020		£1255
10 Apr	2020		24 Apr	2020		£1255
23 Apr	2020		07 May	2020		£1255
06 May	2020		20 May	2020		£1255
26 Jun	2020		10 Jul	2020		£1255
02 Aug	2020		16 Aug	2020		£1255
27 Aug	2020		10 Sep	2020		£1255
09 Sep	2020		23 Sep	2020		£1255
09 Oct	2020		23 Oct	2020		£1255
30 Oct	2020		13 Nov	2020		£1255
06 Dec	2020		20 Dec	2020		£1255
01 Jan	2021		15 Jan	2021		£1255

Countries visited: South Africa

Highlights: Cape Town • Robben Island • Cape Point • Shark dive • Cape Agulhas • Ostrich Farm • Cango Caves • Tsitsikamma Forest • Bloukrans Bridge bungee • Blackwater tubing • Port Elizabeth • Addo Elephant National Park • Orange River • Lesotho • The Drakensberg • Johannesburg

Safari structure: All the big highlights you want to see and do in South Africa, travelling from Cape Town to Johannesburg!

The Garden Route Safari is a component of our main programme of safaris. Along the way you will meet travellers who may be doing longer components of this program. We finish in Johannesburg at Backpackers Connection. For more information on other components that you can add to this trip, please contact the office.

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 3
Health and immunisation	Page 7
A detailed guide itinerary	Page 9
Money and budgeting	Page 9
Packing - what to bring, packing advice incl. electrical equipment	Page 13
Life on your big yellow truck (Includes safety and security, trading and donating, general code of conduct, keeping in touch)	Page 15
Wildlife chart	Page 20
Further reading	Page 21

Flights

When arranging your flights into Africa we suggest that you arrive at least day before your trip begins. We spend the first few days in Cape Town but there is a lot to do in and around Cape Town so you might like these extra days. Return flights should be arranged to depart the day after your safari is scheduled to end.

Please note 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.

Flight arrangements for this trip are sometimes known as 'open jaw' flights. These allow you to fly in to one destination and out of another. If searching online these are often called 'multi-city' or 'multi-stop' tickets.

Alternatively you might also like to look at return flights to Cape Town or Johannesburg, and then adding on a connecting flight.

South African Airways offers flights from both destinations, as well as Virgin, British Airways, Qatar just to name a few airlines and several budget airlines can be used for the connection between the two, including www.kulula.com and www.flymango.com

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

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

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 the entire duration of your 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 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, given the remote nature of overland travel, and that any hazardous activities you may intend to undertake including white water rafting on grade 5 rapids, scuba diving, black water tubing, volunteer work, lion walks, tandem sky diving and bungee jumping are fully covered.

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

Remember when travelling 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 for the Garden Route

[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. Immigration officials usually require 2 consecutive blank pages when you enter South Africa. Please check your passport has adequate blank pages.

If you have dual nationality you can only use one passport for the entire trip, whilst bringing both is wise as a back up. More information can be found 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.

Visas are not normally required for South Africa for most passport holders, including British, Australian, Irish, South Africa, German, French, Dutch, Canadian and American passport holders. If your passport is not detailed above or if you would like further details of your visa requirements please do not hesitate to contact the office.

Do note that New Zealand passport holders need to get a visa for South Africa beforehand at an embassy.

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. Ultimately you are responsible for ensuring your visa arrangements are adequate for your trip. For more information on visas check out www.projectvisa.com

The meeting point for the Garden Route Safari is at Ashanti Lodge, Hof Street Gardens, Cape Town, at 5.00pm on the departure date.

If you arrive in a day early, we can reserve accommodation for you prior to departure in Cape Town.

THE ASHANTI LODGE

Ashanti Lodge is a Victorian mansion with an Afro twist, set in park land in the heart of Cape Town, with unhindered views of Table Mountain within walking distance to shopping malls and the City Centre. They have double and single rooms and dorms. There is a swimming pool with a sundeck, laundry service, baggage storage, fax and email service, tv lounge, travellers bar, cafe, communal kitchen, bbq area and travel centre.

Ashanti Lodge is located at 11 Hof Street, Gardens, Cape Town.

Tel: +27 21 423 8721

Prices for Ashanti Lodge, including breakfast, are:-

Dorm accommodation	approx 20 USD (280 Rand)
Single rooms	approx 45 USD (620 Rand)
Double/twin rooms	approx 60 USD per room per night (840 Rand)
Double/Twin Ensuite	approx 79 USD per room per night (1100 Rand)
Airport transfers	approx 19 USD (250 Rand)

Exchange rate at time of writing is approximately 1 USD = 14 ZAR (October 2019).

This is payable on arrival in ZAR, USD or by credit card (visa and mastercard). Cancellation penalties again apply for 'no show'. If you are delayed please ensure you contact us or Ashanti Lodge.

We can also assist with any excursion bookings in Cape Town such as wine tours. Do let us know in advance if you wish to head to Stellenbosch for a wine tour.

Departure in Cape Town

We spend the first two to three days in Cape Town during which you can visit highlights in Cape Town and get to know the other people travelling through to Johannesburg. Cape Town is a beautiful city with many attractions and highlights worth a visit such as Cape Point, The Waterfront, Robben Island and Table Mountain.

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 safari we will email you a form where you can let us know your pre-safari accommodation and transfer needs so we can get these booked for you for your stay in Cape Town. You can also update us on this form of any change in your details and confirm your insurance details, if you don't know these when booking.

Once booked on remember to return your form. You can also let us know ahead of time of any activities you might like to do on this form if you wish to ensure availability as well. The crew are happy to assist with organising activities in Cape Town such as visiting Table Mountain, Robben Island and Cape of Good Hope.

If you will not be able to make it to Ashanti by 5pm on the departure date please contact us as soon as possible.

Do protect your valuables at all times whilst staying in Cape Town.

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 or arriving you may need to show your Booking Voucher to demonstrate you are doing a tour in RSA. Please remember to carry this with your personal documents.

Arriving in South Africa - Cape Town

At the airport you will find all signs are in English. There is always a bank open for international arrivals.

You should change up enough money into South African Rand (ZAR) for what you need for the first few days in Cape Town, or you can withdraw from an ATM if you prefer. Remember you need to cover all meals in Cape Town before the trip starts at 5pm on day one, as well as your taxi into Cape Town and any pre safari accommodation.

Travelling into Cape Town

The airport is situated 22 km from the centre of Cape Town. The easiest way to get into town and to Ashanti Lodge is to use a taxi which as mentioned we can book for you.

The cost if we book a cab in advance for you is 250 Rand (approx US\$19) per person, payable upon arrival at Ashanti Lodge to your driver in Rand.



Alternatively the information desks at the airport can assist with taxis that can be hired out the front of the airport. 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. It is wise to have a small amount of change readily available

The end of your overland safari

The Garden Route finishes at the Backpackers Connection in Johannesburg. Your final night's accommodation is in a dorm at Backpackers Connection and included in your payment.

Backpackers Connection holds beds for us ahead of our arrival and the crew will reconfirm your exact requirements, including upgrades and/or extended stays, at the earliest once you join the trip. Let your crew know if you want to upgrade, and you can then just pay the difference.

Rooms available are

Dorm	200 Rand per person
Twin Safari Classic Tent (own shower)	350 Rand per room
Twin/Double Room (shared bathroom)	450 Rand per room
Twin/Double Room (en-suite bathroom)	550 Rand per room

Airport drop off is 100 ZAR.

The exchange rate at time of writing is approx 1 USD = 14 ZAR (October 2019)

Backpackers Connection has a tour desk to assist you with your ongoing travel arrangements including airport transfers and day trips. Do remember to budget for any excursions you might wish to do after your safari. Typical excursions around Johannesburg that might be of interest are:-

Soweto Township half day tour

Visit South Africa's most famous township, for insights into a place much mentioned in 1980s news bulletins for funerals and fighting, but into a way of life most Westerners rarely encounter. Price approx £42pp(R800)

Lion Park Half Day Tour

Established as a breeding unit, the Lion Park now boasts over 45 lions in four prides. These lions are bred for return to the wild or sold to zoos throughout the world. The Lion Park also has a very rare white male lion, which can be viewed on the drive through the enclosures. As well as the majestic lions, you have the opportunity to see other game such as zebra, wildebeest, springbok, ostrich and much more. Price approx £95 pp / £63 pp sharing (R1800 / R1200)

Ultimate Johannesburg Tour

Visit the top of the highest building in the continent – for a splendid view of the city. Tour Constitution Hill – formerly the site for prisons and courts, now an area of museums and history. Look around the Apartheid Museum. Head to Soweto and visit the Hector Pieterse Museum, Mandela House (optional) and the Regina Mundi Church . Price approx £63pp (R1200)

Apartheid Museum (closed Mondays)

Price approx £6pp (R95) Entrance only. Taxi transfer required.

Pilanesberg National Park

Right next door to Sun City, see the 'Big Five' in their natural habitat in one of South Africa's most beautiful Game Parks. Situated on a volcano, Pilanesberg was initially a farm, but its unique eco-system made it perfect for a game park. In 1976 animals were brought in from all over Southern Africa, and the effect has been stupendous. See it for yourself! Price approx £137pp (R2595)

Lesedi Cultural Village Half Day Tour

The Lesedi Cultural Village gives you the unique opportunity of experiencing four African Cultures in one place – Xhosa, Zulu, Pedi and Sotho. Starting with an interactive video covering the history of each of the tribes, you are then taken on a tour of the four villages; the guide will explain why each one is built differently according to customs and climate. Experience and participate in the singing and dancing, from traditional times through to the mining era. Then enjoy a sumptuous buffet meal of Tribal Food and game meats, before returning to Jo'burg. Price approx £105pp / £74pp sharing (R1995 / R1400)

Cradle of Humankind Half Day Tour

Visit the Sterkfontein caves, a world heritage site to learn some of the most important discoveries concerning the evolution of mankind. Visit the Maropeng visitor's centre - an exciting, world-class exhibition, focusing on the development of humans and our ancestors over the past few million years. Maropeng means "returning to the place of origin" in Setswana, the main indigenous language in this area of South

Africa. Our ancestors have lived in this area for more than 3-million years. Price approx £105pp / £74 pp sharing (R1995 / R1400)

Heading further afield

Kruger National Park

We can also arrange three, four and five day safaris in Kruger National Park including guided game drives in Kruger, with a sunset drive in Balule Plains big five reserve, and in Tshukudu Big Five Game reserve and Blue Canyon highlights.

Please contact the office to check availability and for more information.

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 Clinics in London will provide you with the latest recommendations for travel in Africa.

You will need to have the required immunisations 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 rabies. 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 or www.dh.gov.uk

Suggested travel clinics in the United Kingdom

Nomad Travel Stores and Clinics

Tel: 01341 555 061

- Wellington Terrace, 3 Turnpike Ln, Wood Green, London N8 0PX,
- Beatty House, 1 Admirals Way, Canary Wharf, London E14 9UF, UK
- 11 S Molton St, Mayfair, London W1K 5QP, UK
- 65 London Wall, London, EC2M 5TU
- 52 Grosvenor Gardens, London, SW1W 0AU

There are also Nomad clinics in Bath, Birmingham, 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/

In Australia and New Zealand, Travellers Medical and Vaccination Centre also have a Health Travel Line. The Travel Health Line is 1902 261 560. There is a per minute charge on this line.

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 a guide only)

The immunisations usually suggested for the countries visited on this safari are:

- Yellow fever, if you have travelled to East Africa prior to the tour – 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

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.

Other medical issues

You are reminded that the incidence of HIV AIDS is very high in South Africa. 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. It is recommended also to have a medical check up including a blood test particularly to check for bilharzia upon your return from your safari as a precaution.

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 available for them.

Itinerary for the Garden Route safari

[Back to Index](#)

Days 1 - 3: Cape Town

We spend our first three days in the vibrant city of Cape Town. Here you can visit Robben Island, where Nelson Mandela was a prisoner for 18 years, take the cable car up Table Mountain for spectacular views of Cape Town, as well as take your time to visit the Waterfront including the Aquarium, one of the city's main attractions. Shark diving further down the coast at Hermanus or a day trip to Cape Point and the penguin colony can be organised.

Meals: X2 Breakfasts, X3 Dinners

Optional excursions: Robben Island, Boulders Penguin Colony, Table Mountain and cable car, Two Oceans Aquarium, Cape Point, paragliding, kiteboarding, wine tour, shark dive

Day 4: Cape Town to Bonnievale

Departing Cape Town early morning we are on the scenic drive to Cape Agulhas, the southernmost point of the African continent.

After a stop at the lighthouse we then travel on to Bonnievale to camp. We enjoy a late afternoon wine tasting this afternoon. South Africa is a New World wine region, but is no new comer to wine producing with the first vines being planted in 1655.

Distance: 338 kms

Est. Drive Time: 7.5 hours incl. lunch stop and viewing time at lighthouse

Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Dinner

Day 5: Bonnievale to Oudtshoorn

Today we head to Oudtshoorn, the ostrich capital of the world. Handling tiny fluffy ostrich chicks is an absolute delight, while those game enough can have a go at racing on the back of an enormous adult!!

We also visit the Cango Caves which contain spectacular halls and grand limestone formations.

Distance: 262 kms

Est. Drive Time: 4 hours

Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Dinner

Included wildlife activity: Ostrich Farm Tour

Days 6 - 7: Oudtshoorn to Stormsriver

This morning we head through the spectacular Montague Pass where we pass hops plantations, the area being home to Mitchells Brewery, and then on to Knysna, voted south Africa's best seaside town. In particular the Garden Route coastline between June and December is an important nursery area for southern right whales.

Arriving at Tsitsikamma Forest, a canopy tour can be arranged to spend time high amongst ancient yellowwood trees. We then travel to Stormsriver, a village near to Bloukrans Bridge, where the highest commercially operated bungee jump in the world, located 216 meters above the Bloukrans River. Blackwater tubing at Storms River is also a ton of fun, as well as the flying fox.

Distance, Day 6: 214 kms

Est. Drive Time, Day 6: 5 hours including lunch stop

Meals: X2 Breakfasts, X2 Dinners

Optionals Excursions: Whale watching (season dependent), black water tubing (season dependent), Bloukrans Bungee, flying fox, Tsitsikamma Forest – tree top canopy walk

Days 8 - 9: Stormsriver to Addo Elephant Park

Day 8 we travel on to Port Elizabeth, en route to The Homestead Lodge at Addo. We stop off at Port Elizabeth on the way where some clients leave, and others can join us.

Addo National Park is the perfect setting for some fabulous wildlife viewing including night game drives. Addo also incorporates the largest coastal dune field in the southern hemisphere.

This park boasts the Big Seven, (elephant, rhino, lion, buffalo, leopard, southern right whale and great white shark) and also protects the world's largest Cape gannet breeding population on Bird Island. The original elephant section of this park was proclaimed in 1931, when only eleven elephants remained in the area. Today this finely tuned ecosystem is now sanctuary to over 450 elephants, Cape buffalo, black rhino, a variety of antelope species, as well as a unique flightless dung beetle that is almost exclusively found in Addo.

Distance, Day 8: 224 kms

Est. Drive Time, Day 8: 5 hours including stops

Meals: X2 Breakfasts, X2 Dinners

Included wildlife activity: Game drive in Addo National Park

Vehicle for game drive: Overland truck

Optional excursions: Addo National Park night drives, Addo National Park horse trails, Sundowner tours

Day 10: Addo to Hogsback

We leave Addo early for our camp in beautiful Hogsback set amongst waterfalls, forests and mountains. Following lunch here you can spend time enjoying the Auckland Nature reserve, the hike to the Mother and Child Waterfall, or wander in to town to check out local arts and crafts. There are also village tours as well as horseriding, abseiling and mountain biking.

Distance: 239 kms

Est. Drive Time: 6 hours

Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Dinner

Optional excursions: Bushwalking, abseiling, horse riding, village tour

Days 11 - 12: Hogsback to Malealea, Lesotho

Getting away very early we are on the road to the magic mountain kingdom of Lesotho. We have lunch at Aliwal north, before crossing the border.

Arriving at Malealea Lodge, nestled in the Makhomalong Valley and surrounded by the Maloti Mountains, you will be captivated by the quiet and stillness of this picturesque setting. Take time to enjoy the tranquility, but do also get out hiking, pony trekking and also take time to meet the locals and find out a little about their way of life. Visit the coffee shop and enjoy local cuisine in the restaurant. Local singers entertain us during our stay, and you may enjoy upgrading to one of the simple Basotho or Forest Huts whilst here.

Distance, Day 11: 398 kms

Est. Drive Time, Day 11: 13 hours depending on the border and incl. lunch stop

Meals: X2 Breakfasts, X2 Dinners

Optional excursions: Pony trek, village tour, hiking, mountain biking, farm (donga) visit, hiking

Days 13 - 14: Malealea to The Drakensberg, South Africa

Next stop is "The Drak" as we continue our mountain journey returning into South Africa today via the Maseru border.

Here in the northern Drakensberg you can enjoy hiking, rock climbing or abseiling. Our campsite faces directly onto the Amphitheatre, one of the most impressive cliff faces on the planet, and the Tugela Falls can be seen plunging over this on a clear day after rain. Take a full day or half day hike to Tugela, or a guided hike to find out about the San rock art.

There is a fantastic amount of rock art here and much wonderful wildlife so this is a fantastic place again to get out amongst it! Forest cable tours, quad biking and mountain biking can also be arranged.

Distance, Day 13: 367 kms

Est. Drive Time, Day 13: 10 hours incl. lunch and shopping stops

Meals: X2 Breakfasts, X2 Dinners

Optional excursions: Hiking – half day and day hiking, abseiling, rock climbing, cable tours, mountain biking and quad biking

Day 15: The Drakensberg to Johannesburg

We arrive in to Johannesburg, the "city of gold" early afternoon to park up at the Backpackers Connection.

Most head out this afternoon to visit the Apartheid Museum, which chronicles the rise and fall of apartheid, the key events in the saga, as well as some human stories from this state sanctioned system of racial discrimination. The Museum opened in 2001.

The tour finishes tonight with our evening meal and overnight in the Backpackers.

Distance: 327 kms

Est. Drive Time: 6 hours incl. lunch

Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Dinner

Optional excursion: Apartheid Museum

To consider after your trip: Soweto tour, Pilansberg Game Reserve, Kruger National Park.

Money and budgeting

[Back to Index](#)

When costing an overland safari the areas you need to consider are:

Before you go...

1. Your price
2. Your airfare
3. Immunisations
4. Insurance
5. Equipment

Step off the plane in Africa with...

6. Spending money – This is very individual and often depends on how much you drink, shop and wish to upgrade. A suggested budget would be 310 - 365 USD.
7. Optional excursions – The average amount people usually spend who are wanting to do most optionals on the trip is around 220 - 500 USD
8. Visas
9. Pre and post safari costs

Please note: Before you leave make sure you are clear as to what you need to cover Items 6 to 9 (i.e. for your spending money, optionals, visas and pre and post safari costs). The figures above are conservative estimates for average spending per person on safari. There is a lot of variation in how much spending money individuals need as this is dictated by personal choice, as is your budget for optional activities.

Note also 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. 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?

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) to withdraw South African Rand (ZAR).

Please note 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

USD cash/Pound Sterling/Euro cash

You may also like to carry up to 100 GBP, EUR or USD cash depending on what currency you are currently in. This can be useful to buy local currency when you can get to a bank or regular forex bureau.

Please note that in general USD notes need to be post 2008 and in good condition. 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 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.

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

For your information the currency you will use day to day in South Africa is the South African Rand (ZAR).

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'. 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.

What we cover in the price

A GAME DRIVE AND OTHER HIGHLIGHTS Incl.

- Addo Elephant National Park
- Winery visit
- Entry to the Cango Caves
- Lesotho
- Drakensbergs
- Ostrich Farm

WE ALSO INCLUDE

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

CAMPING, BREAKFAST & DINNER WHILST TRAVELLING ON THE TRUCK i.e.

- Breakfast (x14) & dinner (x15), including some pre-prepared bbqs and local meals as well as a contribution to the final group meal in Johannesburg,
- Camping (x6 nights) and dorm stay (x9 nights)

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

Personal Spending Money

This amount is 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. This is a regularly updated average the crew and recent passengers have provided. Some weeks you will spend more and other weeks less. The current recommendation to carry as personal spending money for this safari is 310 - 365 USD.

For those who enjoy shopping or even browsing there are many different items to tempt you. Regularly 'smallish' optional activities also arise costing under 20 USD, and these also will be covered by this spending money. Alternatively some clients like to buy a T-shirt of one of the many activities you might try or a DVD of a big day out.

Tipping: You may like to consider tips for good service. You can organise this 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 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 Rand. A few may be payable in local currencies. (Prices guide only as at October 2019)

In and around Cape Town

- Topless Bus Cape Town City Tour R200
- Robben Island R360
Ferry leaves hourly between 9 and 3. Please speak to your leader about booking ahead of time.
- Cable Car to Table Mountain (return) R293
- Abseil Table Mountain R1095
- Paragliding R1300
- Aquarium R175
- Township tour R585
- Cape Malay Cooking Experience - Tuesdays and Saturdays R825
- Cape Point and Peninsular Tour R1100
- Skydiving R2850
- Whale watching tour R1200
- Wine lands tour R880
- White Shark Cage Diving - (inc food, transport and drinks) R2200

Please be aware that shark diving is very weather dependent so do get your booking in as early and quickly with time allowed if possible the next day in case you cant go on your original booked date.

Storms River

- Bungee - Bloukrans Bridge (not including transport) 1350 Rand
- Waterfall zip line tours – 1.5 hour tour, lunch excl. 400 Rand
- Canopy tour – 3 hour + lunch 660 Rand
- Blackwater tubing – Half day 650 Rand
- Full day 1100 Rand
- Addo Elephant Park night drives 414 Rand

Hogs Back

- Abseiling 350 Rand
- Bicycle rent R70/hour

Lesotho

- Full day Pony Trek R380 - 620 (dep. on nos.)
- Waterfall & Bushmen Painting Pony trek R315 - 490 (dep. on nos.)
- Village pony trek R200 - 350 (dep. on nos.)
- Hiking to village/paintings/gorge R45 - 75
- Mountain biking half day (incl. guide) R300
- Mountain biking full day (incl. guide) R450

Drakensberg

- Tugela Falls/Amphitheatre day hike R795 - 950 (dep. on nos.)
- Shuttle to Royal Natal bottom park R350

Johannesburg

- Soweto tour 660 Rand
- City tour 660 Rand
- Lion Park 990 Rand
- Apartheid Museum (closed Mondays) 95 Rand

Further information about 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 such as white water rafting and also some game park visits 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.

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 bungee jumping. 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. 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 (plus relevant visas) and air tickets
- Booking Voucher with Final Receipt – essential for immigration purposes
- Vaccination documentation
- Insurance policy
- US\$ cash for your optionals and spending money
- Credit card – preferably Visa

Other items to consider

- Student/YHA card
- PADI licence/diving ticket
- International drivers license
- 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.
- 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.
- Plastic bags for wet items, rubbish and to keep items dust-free.
- Towel
- Antibacterial 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

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

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
- 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.

Some clients have their phone unlocked before arriving in Africa whilst coverage is not always good on this tour

- iPod/iPhone/MP3/Music player including earphones if you want to listen to your own music
Please note it is also possible to use your iPod/iPhone as a hard drive to store photos – check the memory before travelling to ensure you have enough space to store all the photos you may wish to take.
- 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. 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

We would encourage you to bring clothes that will wear well, as traveling in Africa is very hard on clothes. Conditions can be 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. Women should dress 'modestly', respecting the sensibilities and attitudes of the people and countries they are visiting. Note as well that G-String bikini bottoms can cause embarrassment and concern in some regions of southern Africa.

Be aware that camouflage clothing should be avoided.

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 and shopping, assistant to the cook, washing up, cleaning the truck, filling the jerry cans, lighting the fires and truck guard duty.

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 safety please use these. Please also follow all washing and cleaning procedures carefully to avoid infections being spread.

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. Most trucks will also have an information folder on the truck 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. Your crews have been trained, know your route and will facilitate group discussions and will advise to the best of their abilities.

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 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 you may meet clients doing shorter and longer sections of your trip depending on the booking patterns for the months you are traveling.

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.

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.

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.

There are also a few pre-arranged meals booked ahead of time so the whole group can occasionally relax in the evenings in the knowledge that someone else is doing the cooking. This frees up the itinerary so you can enjoy a little more of Africa.

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 spoilt we are in the Western world 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.

Safety and security whilst on safari

Travelling as a group does provide everyone within the group a level of security in itself. Perhaps the two most important factors to always bear in mind on the trip are to be constantly vigilant as to your own and

your group's health and security.

A few extra things to note

Be very aware of protecting your own cash and valuables at all times. Day to day, layer your clothing to keep valuables inconspicuous and take clothes preferably with zip and velcro pockets. Don't walk around flaunting valuables e.g. cameras, jewellery and money. Remember even cheap jewellery can look expensive! Use a money belt.

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.

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.

Whilst in Cape Town before the start of your safari, all valuables should be kept locked away. Once you join the truck, valuables can be locked safely away in a safety deposit box, which is kept hidden within the vehicle.

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. Ensure you follow all instructions and signs provided by the local site and activity operators from destination to destination in regard to health, safety and security issues as we travel. In particular you will travel to places with wild animals. Take note of all warnings and cautionary signs.

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 group member's health and security. All in your group will appreciate your co-operation with this.

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 Cape Town, Gainsbaai, Storms River and Johannesburg and it will be available in at various locations along the route. Please note internet speed can get 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 South African countries. Learning some Afrikaans and Zulu will ensure a warm response from the locals.

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.

ABSOLUTE AFRICA



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	3.7	15	VU	C	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	African Elephant	22	70	VU	H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Cape Buffalo	11	17	LC	H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Leopard	3	20	NT	C	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Rhinoceros	6	35	CR	H	✓	✓	✓	✓	Reintroduced	Reintroduced	Reintroduced	Reintroduced	✓	✓
	White	6	35	NT	H	Introduced	Reintroduced	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Cheetah	3	11	VU	C	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Spotted Hyena	4	25	LC	O	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	African Wild/Painted Dog	2.5	11	EN	C	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Blue Wildebeest (Gnu)	8.5	20	LC	H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Giraffe	15	28	LC	H	✓	✓	Introduced	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Plains/Burchell's Zebra	12	28	LC	H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Oryx/Gemsbok	8.5	20	LC	H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Sitatunga	7.5	19	LC	H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Greater Kudu	9	7.5	LC	H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Common Eland	9.2	17.5	LC	H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Impala	6.5	12	LC	H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Thomson's Gazelle	6	10.5	NT	H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Gerenuk	7	20	NT	H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Dik-dik	6	3.5	LC	H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Warthog	5.7	15	LC	H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mountain Gorilla	8.5	45	EN	H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Chimpanzee	8	50	EN	O	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Baboon	6	25	LC	O	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Golden Monkey	5	19	EN	O	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Zanzibar Red Colobus Monkey	6	20	EN	O	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Rock Hyrax/Dassie	7	12	LC	H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Banded Mongoose	1.7	8	LC	C	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Common Genet	2.5	8	LC	O	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Meerkat	2.5	13	LC	O	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Hippopotamus	7.9	50	VU	H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Nile Crocodile	3*	45	LC	C	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Common Bottlenose Dolphin	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**

The Africans
 The Last Elephant, An African Quest
 Venture Into The Interior
 Africa Solo
 A Good Man in Africa
 The Grass is Singing
 African Laughter
 The tree where Man was born
 African Silences
 Cry the Beloved Country
 Mukiwa A white Boy in Africa
 Songs to an African Sunset
 The State of Africa
 Mugabe: Power, Plunder
 and the Struggle for Zimbabwe
 River God and The Seven Scrolls, and other titles
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 A Durable Fire
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 Geoff Crowther
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 Isabelle Young, Lonely Planet Publications 2000

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

A 746 Michelin map will give you a good insight as to 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

18th October 2019