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 Classic Safari

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Depart Nairobi</th>
<th>Finish Cape Town</th>
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### Special Departure Details:

Please note that from 14th September 2019 the tour will be 62 days and the start and end dates listed reflect this. We have added some highlights and adjusted drive days.
Countries visited: Kenya • Tanzania • Malawi • Zambia • Zimbabwe • Botswana • Namibia • South Africa

Highlights: Sheldrick’s Elephant Sanctuary • Giraffe Park • Rift Valley • Elsamere • Lake Naivasha • Hippo cruise • Hell’s Gate National Park • Crater Lake Sanctuary • Lake Nakuru National Park • Masai Mara • Maasai boma • Serengeti National Park • Ngorongoro Crater • Zanzibar Island • Spice tour • Snorkeling and scuba diving • Mnemba Atoll • Prison Island and the giant tortoise • Dolphin boat cruise • Red colobus monkey trek • Lake Malawi • Horse riding • Matopos National Park • Kariba houseboats • Lion walks • Victoria Falls • Whitewater rafting on the Zambezi • Flights over the Falls • Bungee jump • Abseil/gorge swing • Rhino trek • Sunset cruise • Chobe National Park • Okavango Delta mokoro safari • Bushmen visit • Etosha National Park • Cheetah sanctuary • Skeleton Coast • Cape Cross Seal Colony • Swakopmund • Dune quad-biking • Sandboarding • Tandem skydiving • Township tour • Open-sea fishing • Go-karting • Namib Naukluft National Park • Sossusvlei dunes • Guided walks on the dunes • Fish River Canyon • Orange River • Stellenbosch • Wine tour • Cape Town.

Safari structure: This safari runs from Nairobi, Kenya to Cape Town, South Africa allowing you to experience an extraordinary diversity of wildlife. It also allows you to experience the different cultures and stunning geography of East and Southern Africa - the Rift Valley, vast savannah plains, exotic Zanzibar Island, Lake Malawi, Victoria Falls and the dunes of Namibia. Along the way you will meet travellers who may be doing other components of this safari. Finishing in Cape Town you may like to relax for a few days to take in the sights or perhaps journey along the Garden Route to Johannesburg. Please feel free to contact us for further details.

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Flights

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

This tour arrives into Cape Town on the final day and so we would recommend allowing a few days before booking outbound flights to explore the city and its surrounds. Cape Town is a beautiful city with a lot of exciting highlights and a wonderful destination in which to relax at the end of a trip.

At certain times of the year flight availability can become very tight 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.

As a broad guideline open jaw flights London – Nairobi, flying out from Cape Town - London vary from £600 in low season to £950 in peak season.

The usual 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.
Airlines that fly in to East Africa and out of South Africa including Virgin, Qatar, Emirates, Kenya Airways, KLM and British Airways are the best options for your flights.

There are several budget airlines that can be used for the connection from Cape Town to Johannesburg including www.kulula.com.

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

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

Insurance

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

We are happy to introduce you to specialist insurance brokers Campbell Irvine, underwritten by Tokio Marine HCC International Insurance Company PLC. The cover includes a 24-Hour Worldwide Emergency Medical Service who are expert in providing friendly and professional emergency help.

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

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

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

Remember when 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 Classic Safari

Your passport needs to be valid for at least 6 months after your trip finishes. Ensure also that you have enough pages in your passport for each country you visit. Up to 2 consecutive blank pages can be required when you enter South Africa at the end of your trip. As a guide then, for the Classic Safari you will want to have a minimum of 10 blank pages (sides).

If you have dual nationality you can only use one passport for the entire trip, but bringing both is wise as a back up strategy. You can find more information on 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 for most passport holders including British, Australian, Irish, South African, German, French, Dutch, Canadian and American passport holders can be arranged in Africa en-route. This includes the Kenyan visa, which for most passport holders can be easily arranged upon arrival in Nairobi’s Jomo Kenyatta International Airport. Visas can only be paid for in US Dollars cash.

Do note that New Zealand passport holders need to get a visa for South Africa beforehand at an embassy.
As per the 1st June 2017 Botswana will be charging a tourism levy of U$30 for everyone entering the country. Only SADC citizens (Southern Africa) are exempt of this. Everyone travelling to Botswana should budget for this fee. Payment can be made in USD cash or by card. This is valid for 30 days and can be used for multiple entry.

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

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</table>

Visas are not normally required for most passport holders for Botswana, Namibia and South Africa.

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

Be aware that visa requirements can change without prior notice. This information is given as a guide only. We do ask that you also check your personal current visa requirements with the relevant embassies well in advance before you travel. Ultimately you are responsible to ensure you have the appropriate visas for your trip. For more information on visas check out http://www.visahq.com/ or alternatively www.projectvisa.com

**Pre and post safari information**

The safari departs from both the Heron Hotel at 8 am on the departure date, and from the Wildebeest Eco Camp at 8.45am..

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

**Accommodation options**

**THE HERON HOTEL**

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

Prices for the Heron Hotel are

- 110 USD for a single en-suite room including breakfast (10,995 Kenyan shillings - KSH))
- 135 USD for a double en suite room or twin share en suite room including breakfast. (13,495 KSH)

Airport transfers can be arranged to the Heron Hotel. Prices are:

- US$24 (2,500 KSH) for 1 person
- US$17 (1,750 KSH) for 2 people
US$15 (1,500 KSH) for 3 people or more

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

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

*Alternatively Wildebeest Camp offers slightly cheaper accommodation.*

**WILDEBEEST ECO CAMP**

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

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

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

Prices for the Wildebeest Camp are:

- Dorm: 20 USD (2,000 KSH)
- Single Garden Tent: 40 USD (4,000 KSH)
- Double Garden Tent: 65 USD (6,500 KSH)
- Single Cottage Room: 65 USD (6,500 KSH)
- Double Cottage Room: 90 USD (9,000 KSH)
- Single En-suite Tent: 75 USD (7,500 KSH)
- Double En-suite Garden Tent: 100 USD (10,000 KSH)

All prices include breakfast.

Airport transfers can be arranged to the Wildebeest Campsite for US$20 (2,000 KSH) and is payable in KSH.

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

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

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

**Day trips in Nairobi**

If you wish we can arrange tours to take in some of the sights of Nairobi.

**Nairobi National Park**

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

**Price:** On Request

**Departing Nairobi.**

On the departure date we will collect you from either from The Heron Hotel, Nairobi, at 8 am, or Wildebeest Eco Camp at 8.45 am, depending on your location. We spend time in Nairobi, including a visit to the Elephant sanctuary and giraffe park before heading up country out of Nairobi.

The crew will organise a meeting on day one to go through all of 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 collect the local payment, 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 to 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 peoples’ 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.

Security in Nairobi
Do be aware that Nairobi is known as ‘Nairobbery’. Make sure you stay alert at all times and take sensible precautions. You are best to dress ‘down’. Don’t wear or carry anything valuable or new including cameras. Mobile phones should be inconspicuous. Do not leave anything of value lying around on display in your room at the hotel. Take great care in Milimani Road and do not walk on the streets at night.

Eating out in Nairobi prior to departure
The restaurant at The Heron Hotel is excellent. If you feel like an alternative though you might also like to visit the Pan Afric Hotel just down the road, which has a popular terrace cafe overlooking the street. We would advise that it is best to catch a taxi down to the Pan Afric, particularly if eating there at night. The taxi should cost approximately 300 - 400 KSH.

Important pre-safari details
Upon booking this overland trip a form is sent to you on which you can advise us of your booking requirements in Nairobi. 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.

Do protect your valuables at all times. Whilst staying at the Heron or Wildebeest, please remember to look for last-minute messages in the foyer from your crew.
Flight departure
Check in as early as possible prior to your departure time: your flight ticket will indicate how early you should check in. When checking in you may need to show your Booking Voucher to demonstrate that you will be leaving Kenya on safari. Please remember to carry this with your personal documents. The booking voucher is issued upon receipt of final payment. Your booking voucher will also have emergency contact details in the event you need assistance in transit.

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

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

NB: For rough budgeting/banking purposes, in Kenya the exchange rate is currently 1US$ =101 KSH (December 2018)

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

If you would like the Absolute Office to order a taxi for you ahead of time so that there is someone waiting for you at the airport, do let us know using the previously mentioned form.

If we book a cab in advance for you the cost is approx 1,750 KSH (approx USD 18) per person if 2 people or more payable with your hotel bill to the Heron, or 2,000 KSH (approx USD 19) per person to Wildebeest. This is payable whether you use the taxi or not.

Alternatively the information desks at the airport can help you with taxis, which can be hired at the front of the airport. Do ensure your taxi is licensed and appears in reasonable working condition. Remember also to confirm the fare before you climb in the taxi. A taxi to the Heron from the airport should be approximately 1,500 KSH (approx USD 15), per person; a taxi to Wildebeest will cost slightly more.

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

At the end of the safari
The Classic Safari finishes at Ashanti Lodge at the foot of Table Mountain, Cape Town. Your final night’s accommodation in a dorm at the Ashanti Lodge and is covered by your payment.

The Ashanti holds beds for us ahead of our arrival and the crew will reconfirm with you your exact requirements, including upgrades and/or extended stays, as early as possible after you join the trip. Let your crew know if you want to upgrade; you can then just pay the difference.

Dorm accommodation approx 18 USD (260 Rand)
Single rooms approx 37 USD (550 Rand)
Double/twin rooms approx 52 USD per room per night (780 Rand)
Double/Twin Ensuite approx 80 USD per room per night (1200 Rand)

Prices include breakfast.

Airport transfers can be arranged and these are R250, approx.18 USD.

Exchange rate at time of writing is approximately 1 USD = 14 ZAR (December 2018).

The Ashanti also has a travel shop which can help you with all your onward arrangements including airport transfers, tours within South Africa including car hire and coach seats to Johannesburg as well as flights and excursions throughout South Africa.

Do remember to budget for any excursions you might wish to do after your safari.
Typical excursions among many that might be of interest:

- **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

**Heading further afield**

We run an Add-On Safari at the end of this trip along the Garden Route to Johannesburg, visiting all the main highlights including white shark dives, the bungee, Cango Caves and the ostrich farm. Details can be found @ www.absoluteafrica.com/summary.lasso?trip_code=GR16.

For those already booked on the Classic Safari we offer a special price for this add on safari, £599.00 plus 280 USD (local payment). Limited places available so do contact us for further details.

**Baz Bus** – hop on/hop off bus. Check out their website www.bazbus.com
If you need an internal flight: www.kulula.com or alternatively have a look at www.flymango.com

**Health and immunisation**

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

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

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

You may also like to check out the following websites:

- www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk
- www.dh.gov.uk

**Suggested travel clinics in the United Kingdom**

Nomad Travel Stores and Clinics
Tel: 01341 555 061

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

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

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

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

As well as your anti-malarials, you will need to bring a number of other medical items in a simple Personal Medical Kit. Medical kits can usually be bought at travel clinics. Alternatively lists as to the types of items you are advised to carry can be found in the ‘What do I need to bring on safari?’ section on page 21.

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

- Cover exposed skin thoroughly in insect repellent, such as DEET, from dusk to dawn, and reapply it regularly. If applying with sunblock apply it above the sunblock.
- Ensure you carry enough DEET with you to Africa. It is not easy to get hold of mosquito repellent once on the road.
- Wear long-sleeves and long-legged lightweight clothing in light colours as well as socks.
- Always sleep under a mosquito net or in a secure tent with all zips zipped up.
• Wear impregnated wrist and ankle bands.
• Treat clothing with permethrin.

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

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

You are advised also that the waterborne bilharzia parasite is present in many bodies of fresh water in Africa including sections of Lake Malawi. 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.

The Classic Safari itinerary

Days 1 – 2: Nairobi, Kenya to Nakuru
On our first day we meet you in Kenya’s capital, Nairobi. There is time this morning to visit the Giraffe Centre, and the Elephant Orphanage, our first chance to get up close and personal with some of Africa’s most loved animals.

En route to Nakuru we stop at the Rift Valley Lookout for sweeping views of the Great Rift Valley. You may be tempted by the curio markets here too.

The following day we enter Nakuru National Park to head out on our first game drives. Nakuru is famous for its flamingo population. Thousands, and at times, millions of greater and lesser flamingos can be found here attracted to the algae and plankton that live in the warm alkaline waters of the lake on which they feed. The park is also a sanctuary for the rare endangered black as well as white rhino, and boasts lion, leopard, Rothschild’s giraffe, waterbuck, impala and buffalo. We have two game drives, both morning and afternoon, in this small treasure of a park.

Distance: 156 km Est.
Est Drive Time, Day 1: 4 hours
Est Drive Time, Day 2: Under 1 hour
Meals: x2 B, x3 D
Included wildlife activities: Morning and afternoon game drives

Day 3: Nakuru to Naivasha

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

Naivasha is a freshwater lake and is the highest of the lakes of the central Rift Valley. We have a few choices of activities to enjoy over the next two days including a visit to Crescent Island and taking afternoon tea on the grassy lawns at Elsamere with the resident troop of black and white colobus monkeys.
Day 3: Naivasha
Today we have the option of a days hike or to cycle through the red cliffs of Ngorogoro in Hells Gate National Park amidst herds of plains game including buffalo, zebra, eland, hartebeest, Thomson’s gazelle and baboon. Alternatively a guided walk to the jade green Crater Lake Sanctuary can be arranged. A hippo cruise on the lake is organized in the afternoon.

Day 4: Naivasha
Today we have the option of a days hike or to cycle through the red cliffs of Ngorogoro in Hells Gate National Park amidst herds of plains game including buffalo, zebra, eland, hartebeest, Thomson’s gazelle and baboon. Alternatively a guided walk to the jade green Crater Lake Sanctuary can be arranged. A hippo cruise on the lake is organized in the afternoon.

Day 5: Naivasha to Masai Mara
After our two nights by Lake Naivasha we head out on the bumpy and dusty road for the remote plateau of the Masai Mara, Kenya’s premier game park. The Mara is perhaps best known for being part of the setting for the famous wildebeest migration; a mass movement of up to approximately 1.7 million wildebeest, accompanied by approximately 200,000 zebra and 350,000 Thomson’s gazelle. The migration involves a journey covering 3,000 square kilometres, the equivalent to circumnavigating Britain and Ireland. The ever-vigilant predators, particularly lion and hyena, closely follow the herds.

Day 6: Masai Mara
After our two nights by Lake Naivasha we head out on the bumpy and dusty road for the remote plateau of the Masai Mara, Kenya’s premier game park. The Mara is perhaps best known for being part of the setting for the famous wildebeest migration; a mass movement of up to approximately 1.7 million wildebeest, accompanied by approximately 200,000 zebra and 350,000 Thomson’s gazelle. The migration involves a journey covering 3,000 square kilometres, the equivalent to circumnavigating Britain and Ireland. The ever-vigilant predators, particularly lion and hyena, closely follow the herds.

Day 7: Masai Mara to Nairobi
Up early for our last game drives in the Mara we head out one more time wildlife spotting, before departing at lunchtime for the drive back to Nairobi.

Tonight we enjoy a hot shower and then head out for a fun night out in one of Nairobi’s famous restaurants.
Day 8: Nairobi to Arusha, Tanzania

We head off on the drive across the Athi plains to the border into Tanzania and on to Arusha, the safari capital of northern Tanzania.

Over the next three to four days there are different safari options available in what is known as the northern circuit to take us into the world famous Serengeti and/or the Ngorongoro Crater. With prior notice safaris into Tarangire and Manyara can also be added. We finalise arrangements over dinner tonight at our camp in Arusha.

Day 9-12: Arusha camp during optional safaris into the game parks

Optional northern circuit safari excursions from which to select for Days 9 to 12:

Rising early most in the group choose to head to the vast savannah plains of the Serengeti on a three day safari visiting both the Serengeti and Ngorongoro Crater.

A balloon safari can also be arranged during this safari.

On the three day safari we explore the flat grasslands of the Serengeti plains studded with isolated kopjes over 24 hours. There is an excellent chance to view Africa’s renowned wildlife from hyena, lion, leopard and cheetah to elephant, giraffe, wildebeest, zebra, antelope and much more across the 14,000 square kilometre park.

The three day safari also includes game drives on the floor of the ancient caldera, Ngorongoro, for the chance to see more wildlife. Ngorongoro is a perfectly intact volcanic caldera and the world’s largest extinct volcano. Descending onto the Crater floor we find a garden of Eden full of all the wildlife for which Africa is famous - rhino, hippo, lion, elephant, hyena, buffalo, zebra, impala, ostrich, flamingo, and many, many more.

On this safari we spend one night camping in the middle of the Serengeti, with just the canvas of your tent between you and the vast plains that stretch out around us in all directions, and one night camped on the rim above the Ngorongoro Crater, the world's largest extinct volcano.

Across these two parks – the Serengeti and Ngorongoro Crater - wildlife viewing is regularly exceptional. Big cats and other predators always capture the imagination and regularly blond maned lions can be found nonchalantly lazing on the rocky outcrops or lolling in the shade. With a little luck cheetahs can be found pacing the open grasslands and leopards can be located resting up in the buffalo thorns and sausage trees that line the Seronera River of the Serengeti. Spotted hyenas, bat-eared foxes and jackals also roam both parks.

The Serengeti is a continuation of the same ecosystem across which the spectacular wildebeest migration travels, the vast herds moving seasonally between here and Kenya’s Masai Mara. To encounter one of the countless wildebeest herds in a bleating, snorting dust - kicking motion on the famous migration moving across “Siringet” the “endless plains” is an experience of a lifetime.

En route between the Serengeti and the Ngorongoro we can arrange to pay a visit to a Maasai boma.

We travel to the Serengeti and Ngorongoro via the village of Mto Wa Mbu, where Maasai display their ebony carvings, spears and beadworks and there is time to stop in one of the markets stalls for shopping.
you wish to add on a safari in Manyara and Tarangire this can also be arranged given prior notice.

If you don’t head out on this set of safaris you can spend time in the extensive Maasai Cultural Centre and Museum, and if you are up for it visit the Snake Park which has a large collection of reptiles as well as a Maasai display.

Arusha also has busy markets, a shopping mall, coffee shops and internet. A camel safari can also be arranged to visit a Maasai village.

The campsite where we are based has a comfortable entertainment area.

Back in Arusha we all enjoy a group barbecue to celebrate.

Optional excursions for Days 9 to 11: Three day/two night safari with game drives in both the Serengeti and Ngorongoro Crater, Camel safari, Balloon safari, Maasai boma visit.

**Day 12-13 : Arusha to Dar es Salaam**

Once our game drives are included in the Northern Circuit, from Arusha we travel past Kilimanjaro, the highest peak in Africa, to Dar es Salaam, known as the “home of peace” on the Indian Ocean.

Distance over 2 days: 665 km

Est Drive Time, Day 12: 7 hours
Est Drive Time, Day 13: 6.5 hours

Meals: X2 B, X2 D

**Day 14-17 : Optional stay on Zanzibar Island**

You now have the opportunity to have a break from life on the truck on the exotic spice island of Zanzibar. Travel with the tour leader to relax and enjoy all there is to offer over the next five days.

We spend time in the traditional capital, Stone Town. We take a spice tour to find out a little about the spice trade that dominated the island’s history, as well as the slave trade. Heading north we visit the white sand beaches in the north; swim and snorkel in the crystal clear waters of the Indian Ocean. You can also explore Jozani Forest and see the red colobus monkeys and Prison Island with its giant tortoise.

Further details as to arrangements for your optional stay in Zanzibar Island: We make the core arrangements well ahead of time, so we are assured our groups are comfortable in popular beach cottages to the north of the island and for a night in a Lodge in the traditional capital. The tour leader travels over to the island with the group to ensure that all runs smoothly. Other excursions available include snorkelling excursions to Prison Island, as well as Mnemba Atoll, dolphin boat trips, a trek in Jozani forest and fishing. Scuba diving can also be arranged from the Dive Centre near our beach cottages.

Distance: 0 km Est. Drive Time: 0 Meals: Day 14, B

Other optional excursions available during the Zanzibar stay whilst on the island include: snorkeling excursions to Prison Island famous for its giant tortoise, as well as Mnemba Atoll, dolphin boat trips, a trek in Jozani forest to see the red colobus monkeys and fishing. Scuba diving can be arranged from the Dive Centre near our beach cottages.

**Day 18: Zanzibar Island to Dar es Salaam**

We leave Zanzibar Island today and transfer via ferry to the mainland and our campsite in Dar es Salaam for our final night by the Indian Ocean.

Distance: 0 km Est. Drive Time, Day 0 hours Meals: D

**Days 19 : Dar es Salaam to Iringa**

Leaving Dar we travel through Mikumi National Park, where we often see elephant, giraffe, zebra and antelope from the roadside. We pass through Baobab Valley on our way to our overnight campsite at the Old Farmhouse in Iringa.

Distance: 552 km Est. Drive Time, 9 hours Meals: B,D
**Day 20: Iringa to Chitimba, Malawi**
Moving on through the mountains of the southern Rift Valley we arrive in the ‘warm heart of Africa’, Malawi.

Distance: 498 km  
Est.Drive Time, +/8 hours including border crossing  
Meals: B, D

**Days 21 – 23: Lake Malawi**
We continue south down the third largest lake in Africa, Lake Malawi, created in the chasm provided by the Rift Valley. Known as “the heart of Africa” you will be struck by the warm welcome we receive, despite Malawi being one of the poorest countries en route. We are invited into local villages and schools and this is the perfect opportunity to immerse yourself into traditional village life.

The popular beaches provide great locations for the camps where we stay set beside local fishing villages. We can fish, as well as try a variety of water sports, including snorkelling, windsurfing, canoeing and scuba diving. Try bartering with local craftsmen selling beautiful carvings including the traditional Malawi chairs, and enjoy sharing in a village meal during our stay.

Distance, day 21: 236 km  
Est.Drive Time, day 21, +/- 5 hours  
Meals: X3 B, X3 D.

Optionals excursions: Water sports, including snorkelling, windsurfing, water skiing and scuba diving, horse riding, village visits, including traditional meal and dancing, Livingstonia hike.

**Day 24-25 : Kande to Lusaka, Zambia**
We cross into Zambia we head west towards Lusaka the modern capital of Zambia In Lusaka we have an opportunity to catch up on communications and stock up on supplies.

Distance over 2 days: 993 km  
Est.Drive Time, Day 24, 7 hours including border crossing. Est Drive Time day 25, 8-9 hours  
Meals: X2 B, X2 D

Optional excursion: Lilongwe Wildlife Center.

**Days 26 – 28: Lusaka to Lake Kariba, Zimbabwe**
From Lusaka we travel to the Kariba border and cross into Zimbabwe. Arriving at Lake Kariba we hire a houseboat to set sail into Matusadona National Park. We can relax for a couple of nights on the boat and enjoy a sleep in a bed, whilst enjoying nature at its best. This is an outing always popular with the locals. Famous for its tiger fishing, the Lake is a perfect spot to throw in a line as well as enjoy the wildlife on view including elephant, hippo and crocs. Watch dawn break through the stark silhouettes of the driftwood trees, the silence only broken by the haunting cry of a fish eagle. The boats have bedrooms, a jacuzzi and the houseboat crew cook our meals so this is a fun change from camping and life on the road.

Distance, day 26: 208 km  
Est.Drive Time, day 26, 5 hours including border crossing  
Meals: B, D

Optional excursion: Houseboat cruise on Lake Kariba.

**Days 29– 31: Lake Kariba to Gweru**
We travel south to Antelope Park near Gweru. Antelope Park is a private game park where we have opportunities to interact with wildlife. Here we can walk with lions and feed the lion cubs amongst other activities. Canoeing, horse riding and carriage rides through the scenic landscape are also available.

Distance, day 29 : 504km  
Est.Drive Time, day 29: 0 hours  
Meals: X2 B, X2 D

Optional excursions: Lion walks, lion cub feeding, cub viewing, canoeing and horse riding.

**Days 32-33: Gweru to Bulawayo**
We head further south into Zimbabwe’s second largest city, Bulawayo. From here we visit Matopos National Park. This is an area of spectacular scenery of large balancing granite boulders, which lead Mzilikazi, founder of the Ndebele nation, to give the area its name which means ‘Bald Heads’. Cecil Rhodes and several other leading early white settlers are buried amongst the rocky outcrops. There are also very special San Bushmen cave paintings found in the hills.

The Park is home to both black and white rhino, giraffe, hippo, leopard and has a wonderful amount of birdlife including black eagle. We trek to see rhino here with one of Zimbabwe’s most knowledgable professional guides.
Distance, day 32: 168 km  Est.Drive Time, day 32, 2 hours  
Meals: X2 B, X2 D  

Optional excursion: Extra game drives in Matopos National Park  

Days 34 – 37: Bulawayo to Victoria Falls  
‘Mosi-Oa-Tunya’, ‘the smoke that thunders’. The Falls provide breathtaking views of sheer drops and raging waters. Mists from the falls rise meters into the air and have given rise to a lush tropical rainforest along the rim.  

We stay a few days to absorb all that the area has to offer – from adrenalin-pumping activities, fun bars and restaurants, a variety of markets, and sunset cruises gliding on placid waters. You may choose to go white water rafting in the gorge, sky dive, bungee jump, gorge swing, abseil or take a flight over the Falls known as ‘The Flight of the Angels’. Take time to wander the forest, exploring different views of the Falls. Horse riding, elephant riding and lion walks are also all on offer.  

Distance: 438 km  Est.Drive Time, 6 hours  Meals: B  

Day 38: Victoria Falls to Kasane, Botswana  
Moving further into Southern Africa we cross into Botswana a country that is often referred to as one of Africa’s biggest success stories in terms of good governance and commerce. Botswana certainly has beautiful scenery too and the striking image of an acacia tree on the horizon is sure to stay with you. Soak up the atmosphere on a game cruise on the Chobe River as the colours of sunset break across the sky and elephant come down to drink and mess around in the river. To take full advantage of this park there is also time for an additional game drive to allow you access further into the park.  

Optional excursion: Chobe National Park – game drives and game cruise.  

Distance :87 km  Est.Drive Time, 2 hours Including border crossing  Meals: B,D  

Day 39: Kasane to Maun  
We now travel to Maun, which will be the base for excursions into the Okavango Delta and Moremi. Our route is a scenic one taking us via the Makgadikgadi Pans.  

Distance: 666km  Est.Drive Time, 9 hours  Meals: B,D  

Days 40 – 42: Okavango Delta  
In a landlocked country the Delta is an imposing sight. On arrival in Maun there are a number of options available. At over 15, 000 sq km the true scale of this wilderness area can only be appreciated from the air and we can arrange flights over the Delta. Safaris in the Delta in a mokoro, the traditional dugout canoe of the Delta boatmen are also very popular. On a mokoro safari lie back as you are poled through the waterways between reeds and water lilies to reach designated islands where we will bush camp for the duration of the safari. Evening and early morning game walks are on the agenda and possibly even the chance to learn how to steer a mokoro. We can also head into Moremi National Park for game drives in the eastern side of the Delta, Moremi offering superb game viewing across a range of different environments having expanses of wetland lagoons, woodland and savanna.  

Distance: 0 km  Est.Drive Time, 0 hours  Meals: X3 B, X3 D  
Optional excursions: Okavango Delta mokoro safari, flights over the Delta, game drives in Moremi Reserve  

Days 43 – 45: Maun to Etosha National Park, Namibia  
Experiencing a dramatic shift in scenery, we enter Namibia and travel the Caprivi Strip. We stop to see the Hoba meteorite, the world’s largest meteorite, before driving into Etosha National Park to camp within Namibia’s most famous game park for two nights.  

Distance over 3 days: 932 km  Est.Drive Time, day 43: 5 hours, Est Drive Time, day 44 +/– 8hours including border crossing, Est Drive Time, day 45, 2 hours.  Meals: X3 B, X3 D  
Optional excursion: Hoba meteorite
Day 46: Etosha National Park
The local Owambo people call Etosha ‘the place of dry water.’ The Pan’s blinding white surface covers an area the size of Switzerland and in summer violent squalls transform it into a vast shallow lake, providing a breeding ground for thousands of flamingos. A vast array of animals exist around the Pan, including elephant, lion, gemsbok, zebra, black rhino, giraffe, cheetah and leopard.

Game drives find us out early this morning, so we can make the most of our two night stay in Etosha. Optional evening drives are also available, following the regular afternoon game drives. And to savour the last of the game parks in our itinerary at night we can take our hot chocolate and sit and wait by the floodlit water holes as a multitude of animal gradually arrive to drink.

Distance: 0 km  Est.Drive Time, Day 0 hours  Meals: B,D
Optional excursion: Evening game drive, Etosha National Park

Day 47: Etosha National Park to Cheetah Sanctuary, Otjititongwe
Passing through Outjo we come to a Cheetah Park where we will camp tonight. On arrival we can interact with these beautiful but potentially ferocious cats and get some up close photographs that would be almost impossible to obtain in the wild.

Distance: 182 km  Est.Drive Time, 2.5 hours  Meals: B,D

Days 48 – 49: Otjititongwe to Swakopmund
Next we move on to Damaraland where we can meet with the local Himba learning something of their ways of life, means of survival and traditional beliefs. We bush camp here and can spend time in the local bar in the evening.

Optional excursion: Himba tribe visit.

If road conditions allow we will drive along a section of the Skeleton Coast famed for being the most sparsely populated stretch of coastline in Africa. This coast will eventually bring us to Cape Cross Seal Colony, a breeding colony of 200,000 Cape fur seals. We will have time to get up close to the seals and their pups before continuing on to Swakopmund where we will check into lodge accommodation.

Distance over 2 days: 624 km  Est.Drive Time, Day 48, 8 hours, Est Drive Time Day 49, 3 hours including seal colony.  Meals: X2 B, X1 D.
Optional excursion: A guided walk incl. viewing of rock engravings

Days 50 – 52: Swakopmund
Your tour leader will arrange for an activity presentation so you know what is on offer in the so called ‘adrenaline capital’ of Namibia. The options are too numerous to list but some of the most popular include quad biking, sand boarding and skydiving. As well as these extreme sports you can also take in the views of the Namib desert by helicopter, take a township tour, sample the fresh seafood and head out on open water fishing.

Distance: 0 km  Est.Drive Time, 0 hours  Meals: 0
Optional excursions: Quad biking, sandboarding, skydiving, go-karting, open-sea fishing, township tours, horse riding, balloons and flights over the Desert.

Day 53: Swakopmund to Sesriem
The Namib Desert is an impressive and beautiful expanse whilst a harsh and unforgiving environment. We will learn more about the plant and animal life who survive amongst the towering Sossusvlei dunes on a guided walk in the Namib Naukluft National.

Distance: 230 km  Est.Drive Time, 5 hours  Meals: B,D
Optional excursion: Guided walk on the Dunes

Day 54: Sesreim to Fish River Canyon
We travel on to the Fish River Canyon, reputedly the second largest canyon in the world over two days. The region is a spectacular setting for our last night in Namibia. Weather and time permitting we stop at Ai Ais and enjoy a soak in the hot springs in the lower reaches of the Canyon.
Day 55: Fish River Canyon to Orange River, South Africa
Today we embark on our final border crossing as we enter South Africa. The banks of the Orange River are the site of our first camp in South Africa. The river marks the division of South Africa and Namibia. Gazing across from our campsite it almost seems you could swim between the two.

Distance: 210km          Est.Drive Time, 3 hours          Meals: B,D
Optional excursions: Canoe the Orange River

Days 56 to 58: Orange River to Stellenbosch, South Africa
We travel via Citrus Dale to Stellenbosch. The university town of Stellenbosch has a slightly continental air and is set against the mountainous backdrop of South Africa’s wine lands. Taking a wine tour not only allows you to taste the region’s produce but also to learn about the wine making process. The wine routes are exceptionally picturesque and offer great photographic opportunities.

Distance over two days: 627 km
Est.Drive Time, Day 56, 6 hours including border crossing,  
Est Drive Time, Day 57, 6 hours.          Meals: X2 B, X1 D
Optional excursions: Wine tour

Day 59: Stellenbosch to Cape Town
Our last drive is an easy one and takes us to the foot of Table Mountain where Ashanti Lodge, our final stop, is located. After check in we have some chill out time before our final evening together to celebrate our experiences in Africa at one of Cape Town’s famous restaurants.

Cape Town is a buzzing city with with a lot to see and do so it is well worth leaving yourself a few days at the end of your trip to take it all in.

If you wish as well explore further afield along the Garden Route with us to finish in Johannesburg. Our 10 day Garden Route Safari departs three days after our arrival in Cape Town, visits highlights along the coast, including the beaches of Jeffrey’s Bay, the famous Bloukrans bungee, Addo Elephant Park and finishes in Johannesburg, ‘the City of Gold”

The Travel Shop at Ashanti can also assist you with bookings in Cape Town and exploring further including pony trekking in Lesotho, hikes in the Drakensberg Mountains, a safari in Kruger National Park, and travelling through to the KwaZulu-Natal coast for some excellent surfing.

Distance: 40 km          Est.Drive Time, 1 hour          Meals: D (contribution to the final restaurant meal)
General note: Itineraries are given as a guide only. A safari is a journey and true journeys unfold. They are of an adventurous nature. The unexpected can arise, so do allow for this. Feel free to give us a call about your safari plans. We look forward to your further enquiries.

Other Information

Zanzibar Island
As part of your safari we offer the option to go over to exotic Zanzibar Island for a 4-night stay in bed and breakfast accommodation. One night is spent in a lodge in the traditional ancient capital, Stone Town, then three nights in beach bungalows to the north of the island. We also organise a spice tour which provides a fun and fascinating glimpse of the history of the island. We visit the ruins of the Maharubi palace and plantations where exclusive fruits and spices are grown, the island’s history being based around the spice trade. Otherwise the time on the island is yours to relax, enjoy the beach, warm waters and fresh seafood. There is a scuba diving centre beside the bungalows and snorkeling is also easily arranged from here.

Accommodation and other arrangements on Zanzibar Island can book out. We have found it best, over many years of overlanding, to prearrange bookings well ahead of time to avoid disappointment and ensure all runs smoothly. If you would like to travel over to the island and stay together with your group and safari
leader, these arrangements can be paid for before departure. Paying for these arrangements ahead of time also reduces the amount of cash you need to carry with you to Africa and particularly over to Zanzibar, which is a significant advantage. Most join in with these arrangements on the island, opting for shared accommodation in doubles or triples. Singles are also available, for which there is a supplement. There are a limited number of deluxe bungalows available, which are more expensive.

**Money and budgeting**

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

Before you go…
1. Your price
2. Your airfare
3. Immunisation and anti-malarials
4. Zanzibar Island stay
5. Insurance
6. Equipment

Step off the plane in Africa with…
7. Spending money – This is very individual and often depends on how much you drink, shop and wish to upgrade. A suggested budget would be 1,200 - 1,400 USD.
8. Local payment – 900 USD
9. Optional excursions – A traveller who wishes to do most optionals on the trip will spend an average of between 800 - 2,000 USD (Please see page 19 for the current options available).
10. Visas: Up to 305 USD depending on nationality
   - Purchasing visas in Africa in US dollars for the above passports is currently cheaper than buying ahead of time.
11. Pre and Post safari costs

Please note: You need to carry money with you out to Africa to cover Items 7 to 11 (i.e. for your spending money, local payment, 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.

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

**How do I take this money to Africa?**

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

$US cash
We are finding clients find it most convenient to take between $US 2,300 to $US 2,500 including money for your local payment and visas. It will also be used to pay for some optionals which are only payable in $US and occasionally to buy local currency when this is the best and/or only means to do so.

Please note that in general USD notes need to be dated 2008 or later and in good condition. When arranging your USD cash a range of is probably the most convenient including a few 5 USD and 10 USD notes as well as 20s, 50s and 100s.

Remember you will need 50 USD for your Kenyan visa when you land at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport in Nairobi unless you are travelling on a South African passport. Also do have suitable notes organised to pay the exact amount for your local payment if at all possible. Your local payment is payable
on Day One of the trip.

**Pounds sterling and Euro cash**

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

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

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

When you arrive in Nairobi, you should change up enough money into Kenyan shillings to cover all your personal needs, such as accommodation, transfers and meals including breakfast for the first day before you meet the truck. Please note breakfast is not provided on the first day of the safari.

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

When you land in Nairobi there are a couple of banks on the right just before you come to Customs at Nairobi airport.

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

**ATM access and Paying by Card**

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

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

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

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

In places like Antelope park, Victoria Falls, Swakopmund and Cape Town a lot of the optionals can also be paid for by card. Note there might be charges for this.

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

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

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

For your information the currencies you will meet are:

- **Kenya**  Kenyan shillings
- **Tanzania**  Tanzanian shillings
- **Malawi**  Malawian kwacha
- **Zambia**  Zambian kwacha
- **Botswana**  Botswanan pula
- **Namibia**  Namibian dollars
- **South Africa**  South African rand

Your crew can advise you as to what you will need, where exchanges/banks are available etc. as you travel. You will need to consider as you travel what optionals you will wish to do as well as how much you’ll require for your personal needs.
This trip is structured so that most of your costs are ‘pay as you go’ via the local payment, some optionals and your spending money. This allows you to control your budget and only pay for those things you wish to do. Overland trips have been costed this way for many years and for a number of reasons - partly as prices for some optionals can vary a lot month to month, partly as some optionals are quite seasonal such as specific game parks and white water rafting, 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 from the price and local payment?**

**GAME DRIVES IN SEVEN OF AFRICA’S BIG GAME PARKS AS WELL AS OTHER WILDLIFE RESERVES AND HIGHLIGHTS**  
- The Masai Mara  
- Matopos National Park with a rhino trek  
- Nakuru National Park  
- Etosha National Park (two nights)  
- Fish River Canyon  
- Namib Naukluft National Park  
- Mikumi National Park  
- The Cheetah Park  
- Sossusvlei Dunes  
- Cape Cross Seal Colony  
- Spitzkoppe rock formations or similar  
- A visit to a Private Game Farm  
- Lake Naivasha

**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.**  
- 44 breakfasts & 44 dinners whilst travelling on the truck, including some pre-prepared bbqs and local meals as well as a contribution to the final group meal in Cape Town  
- 49 nights camping whilst with the truck, including during our stay at Victoria falls, plus over 10% in simple hostels/hotels including three nights in a lodge in Swakopmund and the final night in Ashanti Lodge, Cape Town  
- A cook in East Africa

**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, as well as breakfast and dinner when the truck parks up at Arusha, Dar es Salaam, Victoria Falls, Swakopmund and Stellenbosch.  
- Camping costs if not participating in an overnight excursion ie Serengeti and Ngorongoro Crater (2 nights), Zanzibar Island (4 nights) and Lake Kariba Houseboats (2 nights)  
- 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. It is a regularly updated average that has been provided by the crew and recent clients.

The spending money budget is also calculated to cover meals and occasionally camping those times when the truck is not on the road. In some destinations where there are popular overnight excursions such as on Zanzibar Island or on the houseboats on Lake Kariba meals and camping are not covered. At other busy destinations such as Victoria Falls accommodation is covered but there is so much happening it is impractical to organise meals from the truck. You may also need to spend on personal costs such as email, toiletries etc.

Some weeks you will spend more and other weeks less. The current recommendation to carry as personal spending money for this safari is 1,200 - 1,400 USD. Allow an extra 20 USD a week approximately if you think you might want to occasionally upgrade your accommodation to stay in chalets, which are available at some campsites.

For those who enjoy shopping or even browsing there are many different items to tempt you - Tanzanian makonde carvings and stone chess boards, kanga and kikois, beads and jewellery, Malawi chairs, wooden giraffes and batiks to name just a few.

Regularly ‘smallish’ optional activities such as entry to ‘Mosi-oa-Tunya’ to see the Victoria Falls 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 at Livingstone of one of the many activities you might try or a DVD of ‘the big day out’- white water rafting or gorge swinging. The Falls is also one of the places where the local restaurants offer huge variety and after weeks on the road are too tempting to miss.

**Tipping:** You may like to consider tips for good service, particularly at some of the big highlights such as the Serengeti, Ngorongoro Crater, houseboats at Lake Kariba and the Okavango Delta for example. You may find that you may like to 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, and so is not always so obvious. 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 with the exception of the Zanzibar Island stay, which is booked and paid for in advance in London if you wish to do this option. Do note these excursions are run by local operators on the ground. They are not run by Absolute Africa.

Please contact us if you would like further information about any of these activities or excursions. Many of the optionals are payable in Africa in US$ (cash). A few may be payable in local currencies. (Prices guide only as of December 2018)

**KENYA**

- The Giraffe Park 1000 KSH
- Sheldrick’s Elephant Sanctuary 500 KSH
- Maasai village visit 10 USD

**Staying by Lake Naivasha**

- Hells Gate National Park half day cycle trip 55 USD
- Crater Lake Sanctuary walk 45 USD
- Elsamere for afternoon tea (1050Ksh) 12 USD
- Hippo boat cruise - 30 USD

**TANZANIA**
- Serengeti and Ngorongoro Crater game drives, 3 days/2 nights From 625 USD
- Maasai village 10 USD

**Zanzibar Island**

*Scuba Diving*
- Double tank dive (local) 115 USD
- Single dive (local) from 65 USD
- Discover scuba diving 99 USD
- PADI open water diver (3 days + needed) 499 USD

*Snorkeling*
- Kendwa from 15 USD
- Tumbutu half day from 25 USD
- Mnemba (inc lunch) from 45 USD

- Prison Island Entry and transport (depending on numbers) from $25 - $35
- Fishing off the reefs 40 USD
- Deep sea fishing, boat (takes 5 people), half day from 450 USD
- Turtle Aquarium 20 USD
- Sunset cruise 30 USD

**Jozani Forest – to visit the red colobus monkeys**
From Stone Town (depending on numbers) from $30 - $120
From North from $40 - $160

**MALAWI**
- Scuba Diving Lake Malawi – introductory course 45 USD
- Scuba diving – qualified Dive 75 USD
- Scuba Diving – night dive 90 USD
- Canoe rental 15 USD
- Pedalo boat 25 USD/hr
- Snorkelling 15 USD
- Boat ride to Island (Min 4 people) from 5 USD
- 1 hour horse forest ride 35 USD
- 1 hour horse riding including swim/ride 45 USD
- 2 hour horse riding including swim/ride 70 USD
- 3 hour horse riding including swim/ride 90 USD
- Village Walk 5 USD

**ZIMBABWE**
- Lake Kariba Houseboats for two nights 140 USD
- Fishing including park fes, rod, bait, hooks & sinkers 20 USD

**Antelope Park, Gweru**
- Lion feeding 35 USD
- Lion enclosure tour 28 USD
- Night encounter (when available) – minimum 6 people 130 USD
- Elephant Walk with (1 hr and 30 mins) 55 USD
- Horse riding (Approx 60 minutes) 40 USD
- Carriage ride – Including soft drinks and snacks 40 USD
- Game drive 30 USD
Bird viewing (over 160 different species) 28 USD
Boat Cruise – Sunset/Sunrise – includes soft drinks and snacks 35 USD
Canoeing 13 USD

Extension to full day, Matopos National Park 45 USD

Victoria Falls by the Zambezi
Victoria Falls Entrance 30 USD

Please note these prices do not include a Zambian visa if you need to cross over. The Zambian day visa is 20 USD.

“Flight of the Angels” over Victoria Falls: Depending on time in the air and type of craft -
- Microlite (Zambia) 15 mins 185 USD
- Microlite (Zambia) 30 mins 366 USD
- Helicopter Flights
  - Flights of Angels 15 mins (Zim side) 150 USD
  - Zambezi Spectacular 25 mins (Zim side) 270 USD

White water rafting packages
- Whitewater rafting full day low water only 120 USD
- Whitewater rafting, half day high water only 120 USD
- Whitewater rafting/riverboarding package (minimum 4 pax) 190 USD
(subject to water levels)
- Rafting DVD 30 USD

Horse back safaris
- Horse Rides - Novice, 2 hours 100 USD
- Horse Rides - Experienced – 2.5 hours 100 USD
- Full day horse ride,( experienced riders only ) 155 USD

Lion Walk
- Morning inclusive of breakfast
- Afternoon inclusive of snacks and drinks
- Village tour (includes return transfers from Victoria Falls, aprox 3 hrs) 60 USD

Bungee Jumping
- Bungee Jump (111 metres - 3rd highest commercial bungee in the world) 160 USD
- Bridge slide 45 USD
- Tandem bridge slide 70 USD
- Bridge swing 160 USD
- Tandem bridge swing 240 USD

Gorge activities
- Gorge Swing only (1 jump) 95 USD
- Tandem gorge swing 140 USD
- Single flying fox 45 USD
- Single zip line 70 USD
- Tandem zip line 110 USD
- Canopy Tour 55 USD
- Big Air Combo, 1x bungee, 1x bridge swing, 1x bridge slide 210 USD
- Half day adrenaline - gorge swing, zip line, flying fox 140 USD
- Half day adrenaline/Canopy tour 175 USD
- Raft/ Gorge swing, Combo Half or full day rafting (water level permitting) 1 gorge swing (10 USD park fees for rafting not inclusive) 200 USD
Adventure Pass 1 315 USD
• Any 2 of the following with a sunset cruise
  • Half day rafting Lion Walk
  • Full day rafting 15 minute Helicopter
  • Elephant back safari Canoeing
  • Half day adrenaline
  • (Park fees not included where applicable)

Adventure pass 2 385 USD
• Any 3 of the following activities
  • Half day rafting Lion Walk
  • Full day rafting 15 minute Helicopter
  • Elephant back safari Canoeing
  • Half day adrenaline

Upper Zambezi Canoeing
• Zambezi drift - incl. transfers, b'fast, drinks and park fees (7am-2.30 pm) 150 USD
• Wine drift 70 USD
• Half day Canoe Safari including park fees 125 USD
• Full day Canoe Safari including park fees 150 USD

Zambezi River Cruises
• Sunset/ booze cruise (inc transfer,full bar and snacks) 55 USD
• Dinner/sundowner cruise (inc transfers,full bar,snacks and 3 course dinner) 90 USD

• Zambian day visa (if required) 20 USD
• Devils Pool (incl breakfast) 100 USD
• Devils Pool (incl lunch) 165 USD
• Devils Pool (incl high tea) 140 USD

*subject to availability and season
**visa for Zambia and transfers not included

BOTSWANA
• Chobe National Park - game cruise and guided game drives 820 Pula
• Chobe River cruise 410 Pula
• Chobe National Park - guided game drives 410 Pula
• Okavango Delta guided mokoro safari, one night two days 125-275 USD
• Okavango Delta guided mokoro safari, two nights three days 145 USD
• Flight over the Delta - max 5 per plane 1 hour 550 USD

NAMIBIA
• Night game drives in Etosha National Park (N$750) approx 55 USD
• Himba visit (N$350) approx 26 USD

Swakopmund
• Tandem skydive 2500 N$  
• Sandboarding including lunch with beers and sodas - lie down 500 N$  
• Sandboarding - stand up 600 N$  
• Sandboarding - spectator 50 N$  
• Quad biking 2 hours on the dunes 650 N$  
• Open sea fishing 1500 N$  
• Township tour with traditional lunch 500 N$  
• Paragliding 1400 N$  
• Go-karting (N$260) 400 N$  
• Sea kayaking 700 N$  
• Living desert tour 700 N$  
• Welwichia tour 700 N$
- Seals and Dolphin Cruise 750 N$
- Sossusvlei visit 170 N$

**SOUTH AFRICA**
- Canoeing on the Orange River, 2 hours R 240-R 300
- Wine tour R 600

- Options for consider if you have extra time after your trip 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.

**Further information in regards to optional excursions and spending money**

Paying for excursions in Africa allows you to decide what you wish to do as you travel. Bear in mind that some activities such as white water rafting and also some game parks can be seasonal. Please note also that prices constantly fluctuate in Africa, partly due to exchange 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.

Lunch, drinks, souvenirs and your evening meals on Zanzibar are also covered by your spending money.

Updates on the price for all optional excursions are usually available in the update information we send out about two months prior to departure. Do check for the latest copy of this document as well which is available on line. Do be aware though that you are covering an enormous amount of territory on this trip and visiting many destinations, and in consequence you may well spend a lot. Africa is 'not cheap' particularly when you add in game park entries and the cost of adventure sports such as tandem skydiving, white water rafting, scuba diving and the gorge swing. Much of what you see though will afford you priceless memories and allow you to be actively involved to the limit. Much of what 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 do bear in mind this is your chance to catch up on washing, 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, assist 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 as to what there is to do from destination to destination on the itinerary. At some places such as Victoria Falls and Swakopmund there is a lot of choice and either/or optional choices. It is physically probably impossible to do all there is to do at Victoria Falls. At other destinations, which are quieter there are fewer choices if you do not do 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 such as when the group visit Kariba Houseboats. Do bear in mind also with the houseboats in particular that they allow you to visit Chete Island for game walks or alternatively Matusadona National Park, and as well give the group a welcome break from camping and cooking.

If you would like further details as to what any of the different optionals for the safari do entail please do not hesitate to contact the office. It is a group participation safari so it is worthwhile foreseeing 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 note also though we have no control over local operators’ prices or government taxes. Nor do we just select operators 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?

We ask that you carry your possessions in one large backpack, travel bag or soft suitcase (65 to 85 litre maximum). Day to day necessities can also be kept in an additional day bag, which should be large enough to carry your needs for two to three days at a time. You should carry your valuables in a flat money belt that you wear against your skin.

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

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

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

**You need to bring:**

- Travel documents including passport (including relevant visas) and air tickets
- Booking Voucher with Final Receipt - essential for immigration purposes
- Vaccination documentation, particularly for yellow fever injection
- Insurance policy
- US$ cash for your optionals, local payment and spending money
- Credit card - preferably Visa

**Other items to consider**

- Student/YHA card
- PADI licence/diving ticket
- International drivers licence
- Photocopies of main documents (keep separately)

**Essential camping equipment**

- Sleeping bag and sheet.
- Eating utensils, including cutlery, cup, plate/bowl.
- Torch and batteries, a head torch being the most useful.
- Mosquito repellent (DEET) Up to x4 bottles, 50% strength
- 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 day-to-day driving on the truck.
- Cigarette lighter
- Concentrated travel washing liquid or washing powder
- Clothes line
- Emergency sewing kit
- Tweezers, nail scissors, nail brush
You will probably find it worthwhile to pick up a cheap blanket once you arrive.

In regards to toiletries these are available to buy in Africa including shampoo, soap, toilet paper and tampons. Please note though they can be quite expensive and it can be time-consuming sourcing particular items. Carry some toiletries at least for your first month.

Toiletries and pharmaceuticals - Most cosmetic and sanitary products are available but can be expensive. Ensure you bring any medications you might require with you with the script.

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

Consider bringing:
- Binoculars
- Pillow
- Wet Ones can be useful
- Books
- Writing paper, pens
- Mossie net impregnated with permethrin or similar if you want to sleep out of your tent at any time on safari, particularly in the warmer months (the tents we provide have in-built mossie nets at door and openings)

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. Check you know how to program it to work as an alarm clock.
- iPod/MP3 player if you want to listen to your own music
  Please note it is also possible to use your iPod 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
  If bringing film, clients usually get through between 11 - 15 rolls on this safari. High-speed film is usually necessary for photographing wildlife in early morning or late afternoon. It is cheapest to purchase all film prior to arrival in Africa.
- 2 camera batteries, including a new one
- Polarising filter/lens hood for SLRs
- USB cable – to connect to internet cafes or for downloading
- Camcorder
Charging your equipment
If bringing a camcorder, digital camera, iPod or mobile, your equipment can be charged from the truck. The trucks have 600 watt Intelligent Power Inverters converting 24v DC to AC mains electricity (220-240v). This will be sufficient for charging any photographic equipment required. Remember to bring all necessary cables.

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

Clothes
Please double check the weather conditions for your particular safari when packing. Cotton and loose fitting items are preferable. Do realise anything white will not stay that way, bush colours being recommended. Women should dress ‘modestly’ respecting the sensibilities and attitudes of the people and countries they are visiting.

- Lightweight cotton clothing, shorts and T-shirts as well as shirts with long sleeves and long pants, including casual wear for nights out. Long pants, sarongs and sandals are fine for these times
- Lightweight waterproof jacket and a fleece
- Swimming costume, sun hat, sunglasses, sandals
- Lightweight closed-in comfortable walking boots, shoes or trainers with a non-slip tread which give enough support and good traction. Please avoid shoes that get too heavy and hot, ‘platforms’, high heels or ‘strappy’ sandals
- Spare shoelaces

We would encourage you to bring clothes that will wear as travelling in Africa is very hard on clothes. Conditions day to day are rough and belongings do get dusty and can get damaged. Do also realise any white clothing won’t stay that way. Soft bush colours are most suitable. Being able to layer clothing that can be removed easily is wise as the day heats up. This also helps to keep valuables inconspicuous. Clothes with zip and velcro pockets are sensible. Due to the bumpy road conditions women are advised to bring at least one sports bra. Women should dress ‘modestly’ respecting the sensibilities and attitudes of the people and countries they are visiting. This is of particular importance for your stay on Zanzibar. 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
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. Please also follow all washing and cleaning procedures carefully to avoid infections being spread. 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.

On a day-to-day 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. Lunch wherever possible you buy 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 particularly once we head south into Tanzania. 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, even in southern and eastern Africa can be difficult to predict so do be prepared for the occasional situation when the plot changes!! Getting bogged is an essential optional extra...Be prepared. And in general, be ready for some occasional long and dusty drives. These are based on ongoing and careful scheduling decisions to ensure you get to the current ‘must see’ places.

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

**Schedules and Itineraries**

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

The trips are made up of components and quite often during the safari you will probably meet clients doing shorter and longer sections of your trip depending on the booking patterns for the months you are travelling.

**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. Some clients prefer to bring their own roll mat - typically a self-inflating mat - and particularly on a long trip such as the Classic Safari you may like to consider this seeing as it will be ‘bed’ for the duration!

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 and toilets are in the main long drop style through Kenya, Tanzania and Malawi. 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 that 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 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. When sickness prevails we 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 (with the assistance of an Absolute cook in East Africa), 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 day to day as needed. She/he is available to provide support and encouragement at any time during meal preparation. Cooking together is loads 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. We also during the trip often organise to cook a spit roast pig or goat or alternatively do a hungi, which is usually a project in itself...

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. We also use these opportunities to enjoy a couple of traditional local meals on safari and as well arrange a seafood buffet so the group can experience seafood fresh from the Indian Ocean. The local payment also can contribute in part to the final restaurant meal together in Cape Town.

**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, so beans, pastas, pulses, rice as well as fresh fruit and vegetables when available and in season are staples. 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 possible to ensure supplies where possible.

We can also cater for gluten-free, vegans, wheat-free and dairy-free diets, supplying soy milk, 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**

Traveling as a group does provide you with an added level of security. Perhaps the two most important factors to always bear in mind when travelling in Africa are to be constantly vigilant as to your own and your group’s health and security.

**Personal safety**

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Truck Security**

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

Do listen carefully to all instructions regarding security issues given by your crew and local operators as we travel. Before travelling 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 each member of the group is attentive and looks out for each member of the group’s health and security. All in your group will appreciate your cooperation 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 en route. 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**

We are ambassadors for our respective countries. How we act on safari should reflect this. An open mind, and a desire to have a positive impact, are vital attitudes to carry. A sense of humour is also an essential to pack for any safari in Africa.

We ask that each member of the group looks out for each other. These trips are about group participation and each member needs to do all he or she can to enable your group to work 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. Excessive noise, obscenities and inappropriate behaviour cannot be tolerated - we need to show respect for the places we visit and the people we meet enroute. It can embarrass other members of the group and seriously upset those around us, particularly in campsites and restaurants. You will get more out of your trip if you are responsive, discrete 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. For safety reasons we insist that alcohol is not drunk on the trucks.

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

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

Game parks are a spectacular sight. We ask that you show respect 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.

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

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.

**Keeping in touch**

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

Email - you will be able to access email in Nairobi, Arusha, Zanzibar, Lilongwe, Lusaka, Victoria Falls, Swakopmund and Cape Town. Please note internet speed is quite often very slow so be warned!

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

If you did need to have something sent to you while travelling 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 assistance.

**Language**

English is understood in most East and Southern African Countries. Learning some Chichewa, Swahili and Shona will ensure a warm response from the locals.
The Great Migration

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

For information on where you should be able to see which animal, as well as other useful facts, check out the chart on the following page.
With such a huge variety of wildlife to see in Africa - we have put together a quick reference guide to help you plan your safari so you know what animals might be found in game parks in each country.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Average Gestation</th>
<th>Average Life Span</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Diet</th>
<th>Distribution as at June 2010</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(months)</td>
<td>(years)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Kenya</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lion</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>VU</td>
<td>C</td>
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<tr>
<td>African Elephant</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>VU</td>
<td>H</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Cape Buffalo</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>LC</td>
<td>H</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leopard</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>NT</td>
<td>C</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rhinoceros Black</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>CR</td>
<td>H</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>CR</td>
<td>H</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cheetah</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>VU</td>
<td>C</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
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<td>4</td>
<td>25</td>
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<td>O</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>African Wild/Painted Dog</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>EN</td>
<td>C</td>
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<tr>
<td>Blue Wildebeest (Gnu)</td>
<td>8.5</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>LC</td>
<td>H</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Giraffe</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>LC</td>
<td>H</td>
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<tr>
<td>Plains/Burchell's Zebra</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>28</td>
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<td>H</td>
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<tr>
<td>Onyx/Gemsbok</td>
<td>8.5</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>LC</td>
<td>H</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sitatunga</td>
<td>7.5</td>
<td>19</td>
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<td>H</td>
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<tr>
<td>Greater Kudu</td>
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<td>7.5</td>
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<td>H</td>
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<td>Common Eland</td>
<td>9.2</td>
<td>17.5</td>
<td>LC</td>
<td>H</td>
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<tr>
<td>Impala</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>LC</td>
<td>H</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Thomson's Gazelle</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>10.5</td>
<td>NT</td>
<td>H</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Gerenuk</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>NT</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dik-dik</td>
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<td>3.5</td>
<td>LC</td>
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<tr>
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<td>45</td>
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<td>H</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chimpanzee</td>
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<td>50</td>
<td>EN</td>
<td>O</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Baboon</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>LC</td>
<td>O</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Golden Monkey</td>
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<td>19</td>
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<td>O</td>
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<td>Zanzibar Red Colobus Monkey</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>EN</td>
<td>O</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rock Hyrax/Dassie</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>LC</td>
<td>H</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Banded Mongoose</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>LC</td>
<td>C</td>
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<tr>
<td>Common Genet</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>LC</td>
<td>C</td>
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<tr>
<td>Meerkat</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>LC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hippopotamus</td>
<td>7.9</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>VU</td>
<td>H</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nile Crocodile</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>LC</td>
<td>C</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Common Bottlenose Dolphin</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>LC</td>
<td>C</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Status:** LC = Least Critical, NT = Near Threatened, VU = Vulnerable, EN = Endangered, CR = Critically Endangered

**DIET:** C = Carnivore, H = Herbivore, O = Omnivore

* Incubation not gestation
For those of you who want to read before you go, here are a few suggested titles:

The Africans                          David Lamb
Malaria Dreams                       Stuart Stevens
Out of Africa                         Karen Blixen
Letters from Africa                  Karen Blixen
Venture Into The Interior            Laurens Van der Post
Gorillas in the Mist                 Dian Fossey
A Good Man in Africa                 William Boyd
The Grass is Singing                  Doris Lessing
African Laughter                     Doris Lessing
The Tree Where Man Was Born           Peter Matthiessen
African Silences                     Peter Matthiessen
Cry the Beloved Country              Alan Paton
The Weather in Africa                Martha Gellhorn
The Last King of Scotland            Giles Foden
Zanzibar                             Giles Foden
Mukiwa: A White Boy in Africa        Peter Godwin
Don’t Let's Go To The Dogs Tonight   Alexandra Fuller
I Dreamed of Africa                  Kuki Gallman
Songs to an African Sunset           Sekai Nzenza-Shand
The Scramble for Africa              Thomas Pakenham
Disgrace                             J.M. Coetzee
The State of Africa                  Martin Meredith
Mugabe: Power, Plunder and the       Martin Meredith
Struggle for Zimbabwe                Tim Butcher
Blood River                          Aiden Hartlet
The Zanzibar Chest                   Yoweri Museveni
Sowing the Mustard                   Michela Wrong
In the Footsteps of Mr Kurtz         Wilbur Smith
River God and The Seven Scrolls, and other titles
Out of Shadows                       Jason Wallace
A Sunday at the Pool in Kigale       Gill Courtemanche
Africa on a Shoestring               Geoff Crowther
Healthy Travel Africa                Isabelle Young, Lonely Planet 2000

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

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

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

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

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

14th December 2018