



Overland Addis Ababa And Cape Town (EAW)

Cape Town to Addis Ababa 1 days, departing 25 May 2013

Comfort Zone: Basic Luxury

Physical Challenge: Easy Hard

Trip Style: Overlanding

Route: Cape Town to Addis Ababa

Length: 1 days

Transport: Overland expedition vehicle, jeeps and boats.

Accommodation: Mainly campsites, some wildcamps and small hotels (approx 85% camping, 15% hotels)



Ratings for this trip

Comfort Zone: Basic / Adventurous

Basic comfort levels. Expect to rough it every now and again. On OVERLAND TRIPS be prepared to have some nights wild camping, campsites with basic facilities as well as some basic hotels, often on a multi-share basis. Some of the roads we travel along may be poor. On our ADVENTURE HOLIDAYS you will stay in simple, budget (1-2 star) accommodation with some shared facilities. Some accommodation may be on a multi-share basis and transport will be mainly local.

Physical Challenge: Strenuous in parts

STRENUOUS IN PARTS: These are physical tours; we may well be travelling at high altitudes, across deserts or through hot and steamy tropical countries. Physically it can be quite tough, but not necessarily all the time and there will be plenty of rest days and time to relax as well. The fitter you are the more you will enjoy the trip.

Countries Visited

Botswana

Botswana is one of the finest safari destinations in Africa. With 17% of the country covered by national parks, the wildlife is diverse. There are over 85 species of mammals and well over 1000 types of birds that reside in the country's national parks. Chobe, probably best know for its elephant population, is Botswana's premier national park.

The sand of the Kalahari Desert covers most of Botswana. With very little rainfall, the desert is a habitat for some of Botswana's amazing wildlife. In the northwest of the country is the Okavango Delta, the largest inland delta in the world which incorporates the The Moremi Game Reserve.

Although the nation where many branded products are produced, Botswana is rich in its own cuisine. Many meats, vegetables and peanuts produced locally make up for the small amount they have to import. Traditional dishes across the country are sometimes only eaten on special occasions. Botswana is a welcoming country, where chicken cooked for guests shows a sign of kind and welcoming hospitality. Ginger beer is a favourite non alcoholic drink brewed in Botswana.



Ethiopia

With a friendly atmosphere, a country brimming with history, tribes and national parks. Ethiopia is a country that is as diverse as you can get in Africa.

Along the Sudanese frontier it changes from semi-desert to high mountains. The highland area and the Simien Mountains are known as the Roof of Africa and are home to the ancient Ethiopian Christian kingdom. In the far east of the country is a vast desert, home to Islamic nomads. In the south is the Rift Valley with stunning lakes and flora and fauna. To the south-west are the unique tribal lands of the Omo Valley and Mago National Park.

The principle national park is the Simien Mountains National Park, and with the range of wildlife in the park and great mountain vistas, it is nothing short of amazing. The parks most famous inhabitants are the Gelada Baboons.

Ethiopia is an ancient Christian kingdom and has architecture unusual in this part of Africa as a result. The rock churches of Lalibela and the forts of Gondar are completely unique in East Africa.

It is a country full of life and colour, and this is expressed through the sound of music. It is very diverse, as so many cultures across the country have their own sound. Most of Ethiopia's music is folk inspired and is influenced from other North African countries. The range of sound is diverse and there are many traditional instruments. Chordophones, Aerophones, Idiophones and Membranophones are the most common sounds used in traditional music.

Vegetables and meat are the basis of many of the dishes in Ethiopia. Berbere is an ingredient used in many dishes. A cross between chilli powder and other spices give dishes a distinct taste when added to beautiful stews. Food brings Ethiopians together, and the act of Goorshsa shows this. This is the act of ripping off a piece of injera bread, rolling it in the sauce and placing it in a friend's mouth. This is an act of friendship and the larger the injera, the greater the friendship.

Kenya

Kenya is a country full of life and colour; of tribes and tradition and of wildlife and game parks.

In the lively capital of Nairobi there are so many attractions to fill a few days. The Karen Blixen museum was donated by Denmark after popularity of 'Out of Africa'. The location of the museum now is also home to some beautiful wildlife including horses. Most visitors also take in the elephant orphanage and giraffe sanctuary, offering the chance to feed the giraffes from a raised platform.

Of course it's the wildlife that draws most people to Kenya due its excellent national parks and reserves such as The Maasai Mara (also known as the Masai Mara to the Mara to locals), Nakuru and Samburu . Of course most people want to get a snap of the big five but there are also good chances of seeing the lesser predators of the genet, jackal and hyena.

Mount Kenya is the country's highest mountain and is the 2nd largest mountain in Africa after Kilimanjaro. Standing at a height of over 5000 metres, it towers over the surrounding plains and is no mean feat to scale with most climbers regarding it as more of a challenge that it's taller cousin in Tanzania .

Kenya's music scene is one of the most eclectic in the whole of Africa. With over 40 regional languages across the country, the folk music of Kenya is incredibly varied. Many of the regions have their own type of music, and one of the most inspiring is the Polyphonic style of the Maasai region in which chanting makes up the song's rhythm.

Tribes all over Kenya are proud of their products, whether it is music or textiles or food. The staple diet is mainly maize based and although each region has its own specific taste, there are many that are common across the country. One of these is Sukuma wiki. It is a phrase that means "to push the week". This meal is full of seasonal vegetables which will last a family a week.

Kenya does pack a lot into a small space but don't underestimate the country, in terms of tourism it is Africa's biggest hit!



Malawi

Malawi is often referred to as the warm heart of Africa, as there is a friendly welcome awaiting any visitors to the country. It is a place full of breathtaking sites and some amazing national parks with plenty to for the adventurous traveller.

The main draw for visitors to Malawi is the lake that takes the country's name, also referred to as the Lake of Stars. It's possible to kayak, snorkel, scuba dive or just kick back and enjoy the beach. After a busy day activities (or not as the case may be) the shore of Lake Malawi is the perfect place to watch the sunsets and enjoy a sundowner. Another attraction is Luwawa Forest in the Viphya Mountains. At about 1200m above sea level the forest has claim to be the largest man-made forest in Africa and is made up of conifers and native trees of Malawi.



Although overshadowed by its more famous neighbour, Malawi does have some opportunities for game viewing; the Liwonde game reserve and the Luangwa game reserve are home to some of the great wildlife, including warthogs, hippos and elephants. There are over 60 species of animals and over 400 species of birds to be found in these parks.

In the capital of Lilongwe, there is a city brimming with culture. There are markets that line the streets and the sound of jazz is never far away. Malawian jazz is totally different to other types across the world influenced by traditional music.

The main dish in Malawi is fish however tropical fruits and dairy products are also a popular choice of cuisine. Nthoci is bread made with banana and Mbatata which is a mixture of sweet potato and cinnamon cookies and are two more of the delicacies Malawi has to offer.

Malawians want to make visitors feel welcome and their happiness and generous nature have to be admired. It is easy to see why this country is amongst the happiest in the world.

Namibia

Deep in the corner of Southern Africa lies the wonderful country of Namibia. It has a massively diverse mix of cultures a seemingly infinite range of landscapes from wild seascapes, rugged mountains, lonely deserts, stunning wildlife and colonial cities.

A perfect place for trekking, the giant sand dunes in Sossusvlei and Sesriem are part of one of the many National Parks in the country, and exploration is a must. The burning red colour of the dunes makes them some of the most fascinating sites in Africa. The breathtaking views of the amazing Fish River Canyon plummet to a depth of over 500 metres and has a landscape that grips the horizon.



Surrounded by the massive dune fields of the Namib Desert on three sides and the Atlantic Ocean on the other, Swakopmund is an example of the extraordinary German culture that is found in all major settlements in Namibia.. It is also the perfect place for many pulse raising activities. From quad biking through the dunes, surfing the waves in the ocean or exploring Namibia from the air in an adrenaline fuelled parachute jump.

There are many festivals that join the country together and it is a chance to hear some of the cultural music Namibia has to offer. The sound of folk music can be the start of an amazing story in which people can join in traditional dances. It's not only folk music that has captured the country's music scene. Influenced by Europeans, the sound of the popular Afrikaans music is created.

A country full of wildlife, Namibia is home to some of the rarest animals in the world. The black rhino and the puku antelope roam not only in the national parks, but all across the country.

Namibia is one of the least demanding African countries to travel in but certainly one of the most rewarding.

South Africa

Think South Africa, you might think Safari, and the amazing wildlife and although it is a huge icon of the country, if you explore the land you will find other images South Africa has to offer.

The capital is Cape Town, and the location for some astonishing scenery. With its stunning coastline, dominating mountain and modern cityscape, Cape Town is one of Africa's most appealing cities. With vineyards on its doorstep, adventure activities around every other corner and plenty of restaurants and cafes to while away the time. Whether finishing or joining your trip here, Cape Town is a very easy city to spend some extra time in.



Escape from the busy life of the city and visit one of the many national parks. Which ever direction you travel in, the wildlife will never be far away. For any safari 1st timer the search for the big 5 is the main goal; elephants, lions, leopards rhino and buffaloes are so grouped as they were the most dangerous to hunt on foot during the days of big game hunting.

South Africa's western links mean that whatever type of food can be found but for local flavours try sosaties, a delectable barbecued grilled meat that is skewered. A melt in your mouth taste is one to be remembered. The wonderful stew of Potijekos is a traditional stew that is prepared in pots outside and is one of the most popular dishes in the country.

The vibrant lifestyle carries through South African culture and the music is no different. Flourishing from folk music to jazz, hip hop and pop, with the traditional music still playing all over the country, the sounds of South Africa are beautifully diverse and an important factor in the country's culture.

The show case of the 2010 FIFA world cup has shown the world that South Africa is a modern country with deep routes in traditional culture. It's the perfect destination to understand how the modern world can blend with traditional African culture.

Tanzania

Tanzania is the place for the classic East Africa safari experience, home to some of the world's most famous game parks. The wide open plains of the Serengeti, green after the rains, brown and burnt in the dry season and home to thousands of hoofed animals and fierce predators, is perhaps the quintessential image of Africa. Flat and rolling with long grasses the plains get its name from the Maasai word siringitu, "the place where the land moves on forever". Game viewing in the Serengeti is amazing and as you camp out at night, don't be surprised to hear lions in the distance as you recount your amazing sightings during the day. Most visitors either choose the Serengeti as their favourite game park or the Ngorongoro Crater. This huge caldera - a volcano which collapsed in an immense explosion measures 19km in diameter and 265km² in area. There is an excellent chance of spotting many of the Big Five as well as many, many other species.



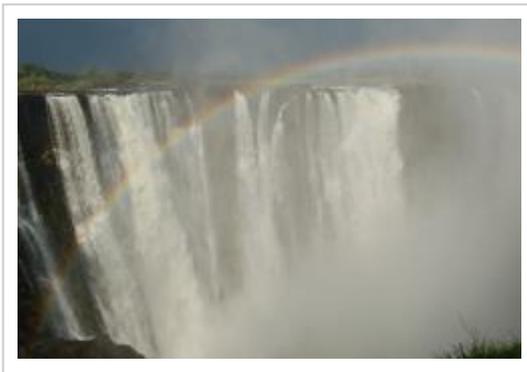
Tanzania is also home to the Africa's highest mountain, Mount Kilimanjaro. It stands at nearly 6000 metres. There are many routes to the summit and each bring a fantastic sensation of accomplishment. Standing at the foot of this giant, is the town of Moshi and not only does it boast one of the most magnificent landscapes in the world, it is also a central region in Tanzania's coffee district.

After safari or mountain climbing where better to relax than the island of Zanzibar. From the white beaches with the lapping sky blue waves, to the stone paved walkways, you can disappear into a world of calm. There is opportunity to visit the slaving forts of Stone Town, visit the spice farms, or scuba dive on the islands fantastic coral reefs.

Tanzania is a country full of challenges and beauty, but also it is a chance to relax. Pick your challenge and discover Tanzania.

Zambia

Zambia is not a country that is considered by most visitors to Africa and yet it has so much to offer the traveller. It has some stunning scenery, friendly people, fascinating tribal traditions and a developing infrastructure. Rural Zambia is the Africa of storybooks and our drive across the country takes us through stunning semi-forested mountains dotted with small villages.



Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe is landlocked between Zambia, South Africa, Botswana and Mozambique and is very much part of the Southern African safari circuit.



With Matobo National Park and Hwange National Park amongst the best in the region. Here you can see black and white rhino, elephant, lions and a vast array of birdlife. There is also the opportunity to know the Ndebele people with our expert local guide.

Sadly, it's impossible to describe Zimbabwe without mentioning the problems the country has faced due to Robert Mugabe's policy of land re-distribution. Whether this policy was correct or not will be a matter for the historians but all we know is that it triggered a decade of violence, and economic ruin.

Happily today the country is getting back on its feet and tourism is playing a vital part in that recovery.

Zimbabwe is perfect for nature lovers and for all travellers who want to experience Africa at its purist. Leave your preconceptions and enjoy the ancient ruins, abundance of wildlife and of course the mighty Victoria Falls.

Daily Itinerary

Day 1: Cape Town

Sat 25 May 2013

Border Information: If joining in Cape Town, enter Cape Town at airport.

You can arrive at any time on day one, as there are no activities planned until the important welcome meeting tonight at 6pm. Your leader will leave a note at reception telling you where this important meeting will take place. Please ask a member of reception for this information. After the group meeting there is the option of joining the group for dinner. We stay in a hotel situated in Cape Town's popular, lively and vibrant Kloof Street with a large variety of restaurants, coffee shops, cafe's and bars all within walking distance.

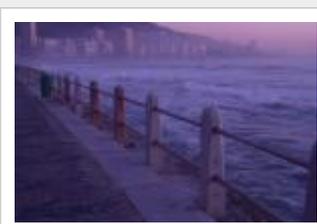
Hotel for the night: Saasveld Lodge

Saasveld Lodge
73 Kloof Street
Gardens 8001
Cape Town
+27 21 424-6169

Activity	Approximate Cost
Tour of Robben Island, Cape Town	USD 10
Table Mountain, Cape Town	USD 25
Abseiling and Kloofing, Cape Town	USD 45
Hiking/Rock Climbing, Table Mountain	USD 85
Diving, Cape Town	USD 80
Cycling, Cape Town	USD 25
Harbour Cruises, Cape Town	USD 15

Cape Town

With its stunning coastline, dominating mountain and modern cityscape, Cape Town is one of Africa's most appealing cities. With vineyards on its doorstep, adventure activities around every other corner and plenty of restaurants and cafes to



while away the time, this is a fantastic holiday destination in it's own right. Whether you're finishing or joining a Dragoman trip here, Cape Town is a very easy city to spend some extra time in.

Cape Town and the Western Cape in general has a very cosmopolitan feel thanks to it's cultural diversity, vibrancy and creativity. The city is also lucky enough to benefit from great weather, with warm languid summers and mild winters - making it a great destination all year round. Home to 6 internationally recognised Blue Flag beaches, it's a great place to kick back and relax, or if you'd rather get active, hop inside the revolving cable car and set off on one of hundreds of hiking trails that criss cross Table Mountain to it's summit, stopping off to admire the views of Camps Bay down below. If you've got any energy left you can even strap on a harness and abseil all the way down.

Other attractions in the city include the Kirstenbosch National Botanical Gardens, Robben Island and the Cape Point Nature Reserve.

Day 2: Citrusdal Sun 26 May 2013

This morning you have time to relax in Cape Town. Later this day we travel approx. 290km to Citrusdal. Tonight we stay in a well equipped camp site.

Activity	Approximate Cost
Overnight camping at the base of the Cederberg Mountains	Included in tour

Citrusdal

Sitting between the Kou Bokkeveld and the Swatberg Mountains, Citrusdal is home to some of the most amazing sites in South Africa. The town is famous for it's rock art as it was originally the home of the San and Khoi people who left it behind as a legacy.

If you have time, Citrusdal is a very good place to hike. If you are feeling adventurous you can head for the Wolfberg Arch and Cracks and the Maltese Cross. For a more relaxing exploration, the Maalgat pool and the Standsaal caves are the best places to go. A walk through the winery is a must, as you can hike while finding out about the local wines. For the historical side of the city, visit the oldest orange tree in the country, which is something of a national monument.

Day 3: Noordoewer Mon 27 May 2013

Border Information: Exit South Africa at Noordoewer, enter Namibia at Noordoewer

Today we pass through Namaqualand to arrive at the beautiful Orange River, the natural border between South Africa and Namibia. It takes about an hour to exit South Africa and enter Namibia. Later we head for our camp on the banks of this river approx. 540 km.

Activity	Approximate Cost
Relax on the banks of the Orange River	Included in tour

Noordoewer

Noordoewer is a small settlement on the banks of the Orange River and one of the hottest places in Namibia. Fortunately there is an abundance of water which is used to irrigate the fruit trees - in particular grapes. A few kilometres out of town on the Orange River, we can take the opportunity to go canoeing or rafting for the afternoon.



Day 4: Fish River Canyon, Noordoewer Tue 28 May 2013

This morning there is a chance for an optional canoe adventure on the beautiful Orange River before we head 160Kms further west into the desert lands of Namibia towards Fish River Canyon. There are remarkable photographic opportunities here, as we take in the sunset orange glows before heading to our campsite.

Activity	Approximate Cost
Relax on the banks of the Orange River	USD
Take a canoe trip on the Orange River	USD 30
Overnight stay at Fish River Canyon with time to explore	Included in tour

Fish River Canyon

Fish River Canyon is one of the great natural wonders of Africa. It is one of the largest canyons in the world, ranking close to the dimensions of the Colca Canyon in Peru and the Grand Canyon in the U.S.A.



Fish River has its source east of the Naukluft Mountains and from there it flows down into the great Orange River. The river has cut into the escarpment through which it flows to create a canyon more than 150 kms long. There are remarkable photographic opportunities here, and on our overland trips we take in the sunset orange glows before heading on to our campsite.

Day 5: Sesriem & Soussusvlei, Namib Desert Wed 29 May 2013

A driving day as we head 500Kms towards the fabled dunes of Namibia. The most famous part of the Namib Desert is its vast dune fields, the most spectacular of which are found near the Sesriem Canyon.

Activity	Approximate Cost
Journey through the mountains, dunes and plains of the Namib Desert	Included in tour

Sesriem & Soussusvlei

The most famous part of the Namib Desert is its vast dune fields, the most spectacular of which are found near the Sesriem Canyon. This canyon through the mountains, was formed when the Tsauchab River carved a gorge 30m deep into the gravel deposits, about 15 million years ago. It is thought that this river once flowed to the Atlantic Ocean but its course was blocked by the encroaching sand dunes. Now the river flows out to the dune fields that stretch for hundreds of miles up the coast, and dries up in a clay pan at Soussusvlei.

The dunes are stunning, with magnificent red/orange tones from the brightly coloured sands. They are in fact the highest in the world and are home to a plethora of animal life. The sight of the graceful oryx wandering along the base of these massive dunes is beautiful to see.

Filled with the highest sand dunes on earth, the Namib-Naukluft National Park holds some amazing sights. It's also the oldest desert in the world and we get the chance to appreciate it in all its glory on a sunrise climb to the top of one of its sand dunes.

Dune 45 is a star dune in the Sossusvlei area of the Namib Desert in Namibia. Its name comes from the fact that it is at the 45th kilometre of the road that connects the Sesriem gate and Sossusvlei. Standing over 170m, it is composed of 5 million year old sand that is detritus accumulated by the Orange River from the Kalahari Desert and then blown here

Namib Desert

The Namib Desert stretches for about 2000 km from Southern Angola to Olifants River in South Africa. It is squeezed into an area less than 200 kms wide between the South Atlantic Ocean and the Great Western Escarpment.

The desert has some stunning flora and fauna. Probably the most famous is the wonder plant, Welwitschia mirabilis, which is endemic to the Namib. Many of these horizontal trees are over 1000 years old. This plant, which is part of the pine tree family, only has two leaves, but these leaves are vital as they allow the plant to take up fog water. In fact, the incessant fog, which comes in from the Atlantic in the mornings, is the reason that the Namib has such prolific flora and fauna, providing just enough moisture for life to carry on. Both plants and animals have adapted to utilising the small amount of moisture that is available.

Due to the fog and the winds off the Atlantic, the temperature here can drop very quickly, then soaring up to over 40°C later in the day as the sun burns through the fog and the winds change to a hot dry easterly breeze. These extremes of temperature make the area inhospitable and yet the desert is home to extraordinary wildlife, including herds of elephant, Zebra, Oryx and other big game.

Day 6: Sesriem & Soussusvlei

Thu 30 May 2013

Early morning climb to the top of the dunes for a dramatic sunrise view across a vast sea of sand and opportunity for a trip to Soussusvlei. We then head off to our first bush camp of the trip in the desert approx. 240km

Activity	Approximate Cost
Take a balloon trip over the Namib desert and Dune 45	USD 565
Explore the vast dune fields at Sossusvlei	Included in tour

Day 7 to 9: Swakopmund

Fri 31 May to Sun 02 Jun 2013

From the desert, we continue on to the old German colonial town of Swakopmund for plenty of adventure activities on offer, the drive is approx. 320km. Our accommodation here is in bungalows that accommodate 6 people each.

Activity	Approximate Cost
3 nights in Swakopmund, Namibia's adrenaline city	Included in tour
Museum, Swakopmund	USD 2
Tandem Skydive, Swakopmund	USD 270
Sand boarding, Swakopmund	USD 50
Dolphin Cruise, Swakopmund	USD 60
Quad Biking, Swakopmund	USD 80
Sea Kayaking, Swakopmund	USD 85
Fishing Trip, Swakopmund	USD 115
Horse Riding, Swakopmund	USD 65

Swakopmund

Surrounded by the massive dune fields of the Namib Desert on three sides, and the Atlantic Ocean on the other, Swakopmund is an example of the extraordinary German culture that's found in all major settlements in Namibia. It's worth wandering around the town to admire the beauty of the Germanic architecture and take advantage of some excellent souvenir shopping.



Swakopmund has become the adventure capital of the region. This is a place for the adrenaline junky as there are some excellent adventure activities that you could try. Some of the most popular include sandboarding, quad biking across the beautiful dunes and tandem skydiving over the desert.

Day 10: Spitzkoppe, Cape Cross

Mon 03 Jun 2013

Experience the sight, sound and smell of thousands of olive-coloured seals on the shores of Cape Cross while travelling up the eerie Atlantic Coast on our journey to Spitzkoppe approx. 240km. Our bush camp has very limited facilities.

Activity	Approximate Cost
Explore and hike in the ancient landscapes of Spitzkoppe	
Visit the seal colony at Cape Cross	Included in tour

Spitzkoppe

The wild lands around the mountain of Spitzkoppe are known as 'the Matterhorn of Namibia'. The mountain, which is 700 million years old, is 1987 metres (5857 feet) high. Although you should not attempt climbing to the top, there are some excellent hikes throughout the area, which is rich in plant life, such as the *Myrothamnus flabellifolius*, *Boscia foetida* and the *Kleinia longiflora*. This is a great place to get away from it all and to appreciate the stunning harsh beauty of this sparsely populated country. One amazing sight to witness here are the breathtaking sunsets and sunrises as the colour of the landscape takes on a series of remarkable orange and red hues.



Cape Cross

As the Portuguese explorer Bartholemeu Diaz discovered 500 years before us, the cape is a breeding ground for Cape fur seals - it's now home to about 200,000 of them. Hyena and jackals wait on the edges

of the colony for opportunities to steal pups while their mothers are at sea. It's important to bear in mind that while this is incredible and one of the 'must-sees' of the trip, it's quite a raw experience, very smelly and not everyone's cup of tea, so please don't go expecting idyllic scenes of seals basking on the shore!

Day 11: Etosha National Park

Tue 04 Jun 2013

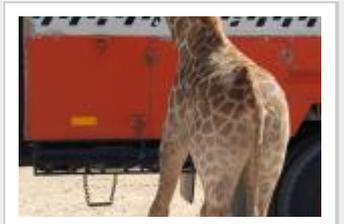
Today we head to Etosha NP, one of the world's most pre-eminent wildlife areas with good chance to see the big five. We will stay in the park for a couple of days to give us plenty of time for game drives.

Tonight we camp in Okaukuejo, a particularly spectacular camp as it overlooks a floodlit waterhole visited by many different species throughout the day and night.

Activity	Approximate Cost
2 nights camping in Etosha National Park with game driving	Included in tour

Etosha National Park

Etosha National Park is one of Southern Africa's most important game reserves, home to a huge range of wildlife including all the big carnivores as well as five rare/endangered species: the Black Rhino, Hartmann's Mountain Zebra, Black Faced Impala, Roan Antelope and the tiny Damara Dik Dik - and because Namibia has protected its game reserves against poaching, there are large herds of elephant, antelope and other herbivores.



Etosha means "Great White Place" in the local language, describing the massive mineral pan that dominates the park's landscape.

The wildlife here is prolific and Etosha has every right to proclaim itself as one of the world's most pre-eminent wildlife reserves. Game viewing in the park is superb due to the man-made water holes and the large sparsely vegetated pans, which make it easier to get good sightings of many of the animals. The bushland surrounding the pans is more difficult to see through but there are enough clearings, pans and waterholes to make most visits well worthwhile.

On our overland tours we stay in Etosha for a couple of days giving us plenty of opportunity for game drives. We stay at two different campsites within the park, one of which, Okaukuejo, is particularly spectacular as it overlooks a floodlit waterhole visited by many different species throughout the day and night.

Day 12: Etosha National Park

Wed 05 Jun 2013

Today we game drive through the park and overnight in Namutoni another particularly spectacular camp as this also has a floodlit waterhole visited by many different species throughout the day and night

Activity	Approximate Cost
Overland safari through Etosha National Park with excellent wildlife	Included in tour

Day 13: Grootfontein

Thu 06 Jun 2013

Today we head towards our campsite just outside of Grootfontein. On the way we will stop to replenish our food supply approx. 300 km.

Grootfontein

Grootfontein is a town full of colour. The Jacaranda and Flamboyant trees start to flower in the spring creating a scene full of red blue and purple. The lush greenery that covers the town adds to the vibrancy of Grootfontein. One main attraction in Grootfontein is the Hoba Meteorite. It is the world's largest meteorite and weighs 60 tonnes. The national monument is believed to have fallen some 80,000 years ago and attracts attention from all over the world.



Day 14: Rundu, Grootfontein & Bushmanland

Fri 07 Jun 2013

This morning we visit the Bushmen village for our bushwalk. We then head off to Rundu (approx. 290km) where we camp at a beautiful & tranquil spot on the banks of the Kavango River.

Activity	Approximate Cost
Bushwalking, tracking and food gathering with Bushmen	Included in tour
Overnight at the beautiful Nkwazi Lodge on the Angolan border	Included in tour

Rundu

The drive along the Caprivi Strip can contain some marvellous sites, but it also has some fantastic places to relax and Rundu is one of them.

Rundu is the capital of the Kavango region of Namibia, on the border with Angola. A centre of activity for Namibia's growing Angolan community this is a great place to explore. Whether it is to try the regional taste of Paw Paws or to see what the wood carvings on sale at the market look like, Rundu is the place for it.

Grootfontein & Bushmanland

Grootfontein is a pleasant market town with limestone buildings and tree-lined streets.

It is from here that you can visit the local bushman community. This gives us the opportunity to go out tracking and gathering with the Bushmen and listen to the stories and songs of these fascinating people. The Bushmen are the oldest ethnic group in Namibia having inhabited Southern Africa for an estimated 20,000 years.

Around 30,000 Bushmen still live in Namibia, but only 2,000 of them continue to follow a traditional way of life. The Bushmen have a deep understanding of nature and the ecology, living in harmony with their environment.

Taking part in their everyday lives, you can help the men track animals and watch the women gather and prepare seeds and plants.

Day 15: Bagani

Sat 08 Jun 2013

Relax at Rundu in the morning before heading to our camp at Bagani in Namibia (approx 200km). It is from this camp located in the Namibian Caprivi Strip that we organise our visit to the Okavango Delta in Botswana.

Activity	Approximate Cost
Boat trip, Bagani	USD 20
Relaxing overnight stay at Ngepi, a stunning campsite on the Kavango River	Included in tour

Bagani

The town of Bagani is located in the Namibian Caprivi Strip. This is a land of fertile floodplains surrounded by perennial rivers, making for some beautiful scenery. The narrowest part of the Caprivi strip is also a game reserve, and the main road we travel on runs right through the middle of the reserve.



The Strip is a classic example of how the former colonial powers shaped the boundaries of modern Africa. At 500km long, with the game reserve only 32 kms wide, the Strip opens up to almost 100kms wide at the eastern end, before narrowing to a point on the Zambezi River - and this is where the boundaries of Zimbabwe, Namibia, Zambia and Botswana meet. During the struggle for independence the Caprivi region was home to the South African Army and Police, and from the early 1960s until 1990, the region was in a constant state of war.

Most Caprivians make a living from farming and fishing. In the wet season, waters from the Zambezi and Kavango Rivers flood much of the area. During these months the local people travel through the region using the mokoro canoes similar to those that you see in the Okavango Delta.

Day 16: Okavango Delta

Sun 09 Jun 2013

Border Information: Exit Namibia at Muhembo, enter Botswana at Muhembo.

We drive across the border into Botswana, approx. 320km, and join our transport for the journey into the Delta from Seronga. You will be in the middle of a wilderness area and on the first night out you will camp out on an island away from civilisation. The Delta is of the world's most fascinating ecosystems. We will explore it in our small dugout styled canoes, poled out into the reed beds of the Delta

Activity	Approximate Cost
2 night guided safari deep into the Okavango Delta on Mokoros and bushwalking	Included in tour

Okavango Delta

The Okavango Delta in Botswana is home to one of the world's most fascinating eco-systems. The Delta is essentially a large swamp plain created where the Okavango River flows out into a basin on the edge



of the Kalahari Desert. The river has no outlet from the desert and the water spreads out into thousands of small streams to form a maze of wetlands - a totally unique and unspoilt habitat which is home to an incredible variety of flora and fauna. The Delta is a magical wilderness of meandering clear waterways, green islands, lush plains and prolific wildlife including hippo, crocodile, elephant, and many big cats.

Despite it's amazing wildlife, spotting game is not always easy in the Delta, but exploring the Okavango is not just about the animals and birdlife, exploring this unique landscape is an experience in itself. Imagine drifting along in a dugout canoe, poling out into the reed beds of the Delta. Each canoe is poled along by a local tribesman who have been travelling this way for centuries, slowly gliding through the meandering waterways. Reeds and lily pads line the streams and birds startled by the mokoros rise out of the long grasses. Punting along, the peace of the Delta is only shattered by the occasional deep grunting of hippos and other animal sounds.

Day 17: Okavango Delta

Mon 10 Jun 2013

We continue our trip around the Delta and then return to Gao Island and head to the relative civilisation of Umvuvu Camp with its hot showers and small bar.

Day 18: Bagani

Tue 11 Jun 2013

Border Information: Exit Botswana at Muhembo, enter Namibia at Muhembo.

Today we leave the Delta and re enter Namibia and drive to Bagani, approx. 150 km. A free day to relax or take part in activities at the campsite.

Day 19: Kasane, Bagani

Wed 12 Jun 2013

Border Information: Exit Namibia at Ngoma, enter Botswana at Ngoma.

Bagani to Chobe National Park is quite a long drive, approx. 430km. We re-enter Botswana at Goma border, which is also the gateway to the park. We stay on the outskirts of Chobe near the town of Kasane which will be our base for our visit to Chobe National Park.

Activity	Approximate Cost
Overland through northern Chobe and the Caprivi Strip	Included in tour

Kasane

Kasane is the gateway to the Chobe National Park. The wonderful stretch of the river side creates a lovely scene for the small town. It's a great base for exploring the national park and finding out about the wildlife of Botswana.



Day 20: Chobe National Park, Kasane

Thu 13 Jun 2013

Today is spent in Chobe NP which is principally renowned for its elephants. In the morning there is a game drive and the afternoon we take a cruise down the Chobe River.

Activity	Approximate Cost
View Chobe's prolific wildlife by boat & by Jeep	Included in tour
Open top jeep safari in Chobe National Park	Included in tour

Chobe National Park

Together with the Okavango Delta, Chobe National Park is arguably one of Botswana's top two wildlife destinations. Whilst it's not the country's largest wildlife reserve, its reputation is justifiably



deserved, as it's home to some of the most diverse and abundant flora and fauna in the whole of Africa. Chobe is probably best known for its elephants, being home to some 120,000 of them, migrating hundreds of kilometres from the salt pans in the south of the park to the banks of the Chobe and Linyati between the wet and dry seasons.

Inhabiting the park alongside the elephants are giraffe, oribi, roan and sable antelope, waterbuck, hippo and lion. Bird life along the river is also incredibly diverse and includes fish eagle, harrier hawk, guinea fowl and carmine bee-eaters.

On our visits to Chobe we tend to explore the north of the park, basing ourselves in the River Front region of the Chobe River. Here we enjoy an early morning game drive and get up close to the wildlife, followed by a cruise down the Chobe River- in many ways being on the river itself is the best way to experience the park. Keep an eye out for swimming elephants, a huge variety of bird life as well as hippos wallowing and crocs sunning themselves by the water's edge.

Day 21: Victoria Falls

Fri 14 Jun 2013

Border Information: Exit Botswana at Kazangula, enter Zimbabwe at Kazangula.

Moving on from the Chobe, we cross the border into Zimbabwe. It's only a short drive to the town of Victoria Falls, approx 115km, located very close to the mighty Victoria Falls. We experience one of our journey's highlights- a visit to the magnificent Victoria Falls. The remainder of our time in Victoria Falls is free to allow you to participate in some of the many optional activities on offer. Our campground is centrally located. It has ablution blocks, comprising showers and toilets.

Activity	Approximate Cost
Visit to the incredible Victoria Falls	Included in tour

Victoria Falls

When you arrive in Victoria Falls you will have arrived in one of the friendliest places in Zimbabwe. This lively town is located right on the border with Zambia and is the gateway to the magnificent Victoria Falls, situated just a short distance further up-river.

The falls themselves are an enormous curtain of water about a mile wide, falling 108m into a narrow chasm below. In the wet season, the spray created can rise an

incredible 400m, the falls create an impressive raging torrent and the spray can be seen from miles away. The locals call the falls "Mosi oa Tunya" which means "smoke that thunders", a good description of this magnificent sight. In the dry season the view of the falls is less obstructed by spray and it's also possible to see the little islets in the river below. If you have time, it is also possible to jet boat down the gorges and rapids under the falls. Or take an adventurous plunge and dive down the waters on a bungee jump.

As well as enjoying the falls, there is a whole host of other activities you can do here, so if you are starting or finishing a trip at Victoria Falls it is well worth allowing a bit of extra time here. Options to choose from include white water rafting, canoeing, horse-riding, abseiling or gorge swinging. You could also cross over to Livingstone and visit the Livingstone Museum, which contains a few of explorer David Livingstone's possessions, or explore the life size model village of an African village and maps dating back to the late 17th century.

Responsible travel note:

During your visit to the Victoria Falls area you may notice businesses offering an optional "Walk with the Lions" experience. We recommend that travellers bypass this activity as it is contrary to our Responsible Travel ethos. Professional wildlife conservation organisations, including Born Free and the World Society for Protection of Animals (WSPA) advise that habituating lions to humans can shorten their life and may result in lion-human conflict issues. Whilst there is some merit in the argument that the money that you pay for the activity goes towards lion research, we feel that the negative impacts on the lions' rehabilitation far outweigh this.

Day 22: Victoria Falls

Sat 15 Jun 2013

Border Information: If finishing in Vic Falls, exit Zimbabwe at Vic Falls airport.

Free time for activities in Vic Falls

Activity	Approximate Cost
White water rafting on the Zambezi	USD 120
Helicopter flight over the falls, Victoria Falls	USD 120
Day trip over to Zambia to see the falls from the other side (please note you must use the same border to enter & exit through)	USD 20
Sunset Cruise, Victoria Falls	USD 35
Jet boat, Victoria Falls	USD 95

Day 23: Victoria Falls

Sun 16 Jun 2013

Border Information: If joining in Vic Falls, enter Zimbabwe at Vic Falls airport.

Group meeting at 18.00hrs. Tonight we will stay in a well equipped campsite in the heart of Vic Falls.

Hotel for the night: Victoria Falls Rest Camp
Victoria Falls Rest Camp
PO Box CT 794
Victoria Falls
Zimbabwe
+27 (0)21 683 6444

Activity	Approximate Cost
2 night stay at Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe	Included in tour

Day 24: Victoria Falls

Mon 17 Jun 2013

Today you make your way to the Victoria Falls National Park to visit to the falls themselves and the rest of the day is free for various activities and excursions to choose from both on the water, on land or high above it all. Choose from white water rafting, Helicopter flights, Bungi jumping etc. Tonight we will stay at the same campsite.

Activity	Approximate Cost
Visit to the incredible Victoria Falls	Included in tour
White water rafting on the Zambezi	USD 120
Bungee jumping, Victoria Falls	USD 115
Helicopter flight over the falls, Victoria falls	USD 120
Sunset Cruise, Victoria Falls	USD 35
Jet boat, Victoria Falls	USD 95
Day trip over to Zambia to see the falls from the other side (please note you must use the same border to enter & exit through)	USD 20

Day 25: Hwange National Park

Tue 18 Jun 2013

After breakfast we head towards Hwange National Park (190 km, approx 3-4 hours) stopping en route to visit the Painted Dog Conservation Group for an insight into the plight of the African Wild Dog. We head off on an afternoon game drive in 4 x 4s within the park. Tonight we will camp in the National park.

Activity	Approximate Cost
Jeep safari in Hwange National Park	Included in tour
Visit to the Painted Dog Conservation project	Included in tour

Hwange National Park

Hwange National Park became the royal hunting grounds to the Ndebele warrior-king Mzilikazi in the early 19th century and was set aside as a National Park in 1929. Today Hwange boasts a tremendous selection of wildlife with over 100 species of mammals and nearly 400 bird species. The elephants of Hwange are world famous and the park elephant population is one of the largest in the Africa. We will explore the park in open 4x4 vehicles and stay within the park at one of the camp grounds.



Day 26: Bulawayo

Wed 19 Jun 2013

Up early we once more embark on an early morning game drive within the park before we travel 310kms to Bulawayo. In Bulawayo we stay in a campground with shared facilities, upgrades are available.

Bulawayo

Known locally as the 'City of Kings' Bulawayo is Zimbabwe's second largest city and has a very interesting historical past. We will have the afternoon free to explore the city, giving you plenty of opportunity to explore local markets, chat with a local or perhaps find a game of football or rugby to watch!

Day 27: Bulawayo, Matobo National Park

Thu 20 Jun 2013

Up early the following morning we venture out for the day to explore the Matobo National Park, home to a large population of black and white rhinoceros. We have an incredible safari to track them on foot.

Activity	Approximate Cost
Guided walking safari in search of White Rhino in Matobo National Park	Included in tour

Matobo National Park

Matobo National Park is one of Zimbabwe's most fascinating safari destinations. The park is a haven for African wildlife and excellent for game viewing. It is chiefly home to a large



population of black and white rhinoceros that we are able to track on foot with our local guide whose knowledge and connections with the local Ndebele tribe is unrivaled.

The Matobo area has great spiritual and cultural significance to the local people and there are many sites within the park where important ceremonies still take place.

Day 28: Masvingo

Fri 21 Jun 2013

A 360kms drive today takes us to Masvingo the oldest colonial settlement in Zimbabwe and the perfect base to explore the Great Zimbabwe Ruins. We will have the whole afternoon to explore the ruins. Our campground in Masvingo has shared facilities.

Activity	Approximate Cost
Explore the remarkable Zimbabwe Ruins	Great Included in tour

Masvingo

Masvingo is the town in which we base ourselves from to visit Great Zimbabwe.



Great Zimbabwe is the national monument that Zimbabwe is named after. A UNESCO World Heritage site, the ruined city was first constructed in the 11th century where it was thought to be a royal palace for the Zimbabwean monarch.

The city's exact history is unknown but recent research suggests a gold-rich civilisation flourishing between 1200 and 1450 AD. The site consists of three main groups of stone structures: the Hill Complex, once thought to be the home of the witch doctor but now believed to be the King's residence; the Great Enclosure; and the Valley Complex. Its splendour is best appreciated at sunrise or sunset. Archaeologists have found fragments of Chinese pottery at the site suggesting that Great Zimbabwe is the end of the Silk Trading Route from the east.

Day 29: Harare

Sat 22 Jun 2013

Today we head to Zimbabwe's capital, Harare. Arriving in time for lunch we have the afternoon to explore the city on our own or relax at our campground.

Activity	Approximate Cost
Overnight on the outskirts of Zimbabwe's Capital Harare	Included in tour

Harare

Harare is Zimbabwe's capital city and also its largest city. There is plenty to see and do, you might want to head to the National Gallery, the museum, the botanical gardens or simply wander the city centre and explore the shops and markets. Wood, soapstone and beautiful malachite carvings are just a few of the incredible array of souvenirs to be found in the markets in Harare.

Day 30 to 31: Lusaka, Chipata

Sun 23 Jun to Mon 24 Jun 2013

Border information: Exit Zimbabwe at Chirundu, Enter Zambia at Chirundu

We have two long days to cover with just over 1000kms to cover. Day 8 will see us crossing over to Zambia. Starting with a scenic drive to the border, we cover 450Kms, approx 8hrs today.

We camp just outside Lusaka, The capital city of Zambia. The following day we continue to make our way through the heartland of Zambia towards the border with Malawi. We spend a final night in Zambia. Travel distance covered is 600Kms - approx 10hrs.

Lusaka

Lusaka is as much part of Africa as any national park. It is a bustling chaotic place, throbbing with vital energy. Most outsiders passing through, see little reason to stay, but it is definitely a place to explore if you have the time. The city is a good example of African hope emerging from chaos and it is a place which has energy, great music, colourful markets and numerous new shops. The local markets are very traditional with a myriad of stalls selling anything from local foods, fruit, jewellery and tourist souvenirs. Check out the rows and rows of "salaula" sellers, who do brisk business selling discarded clothing from the West, sold to Africa by the bale.

Chipata

Touching the border of Malawi is the colourful town of Chipata. There are many fruit and vegetable markets across the centre the town has many mosques, a golf course and an airstrip. The welcome arch gives a hospitable feel and it is a close distance to the South Luangwa National Park.

Day 32: Kande

Tue 25 Jun 2013

Border information: Exit Zambia at Chipata, Enter Malawi at Mchinji

Today we travel to Lake Malawi where we base ourselves for the next couple of days.

Our campsite is right on the shore of Lake Malawi.

Activity	Approximate Cost
3 nights to relax on the beaches of Lake Malawi	Included in tour

Kande

Malawi is dominated by Lake Malawi which covers almost a fifth of the country. The lake provides a source of livelihood for many of the Malawian people. Fishermen, fish traders, canoe and net makers all



ply their trade, and a common sight is that of a fisherman in his bwato (dugout canoe made from a hollowed out tree trunk), fishing on the still lake at the break of day. On our trips we head away from the commercialism and crowds and enjoy a few days on the lake's more peaceful beaches.

Kande sits on the coast of Lake Malawi and is a half way point from the towns of Bandawe and Mphozo. Less than 2 miles from the village lies Kande beach, a great spot to kick back and relax. This is also a great place for water sports, you can hire pedalos, snorkeling sets and canoe and the clear waters make it perfect for exploring. As well as chilling on the beach and participating in the many optional water activities on offer, make sure you take the opportunity to meet some local Malawians, easily some of the friendliest in Africa.

Day 33: Kande

Wed 26 Jun 2013

Free day at Kande beach on Lake Malawi for relaxation and activities like horse riding or visit to local tribal village. Overnight at same lakeside campsite

Activity	Approximate Cost
Scuba dive, Lake Malawi	USD 80
Horse riding, Lake Malawi	USD 50
Guided village walks, Lake Malawi	USD 3

Day 34: Chitimba

Thu 27 Jun 2013

Today we drive 235 km (approx 5-6 hours) and camp in Chitimba on the northern shores of Lake Malawi and only 120 km from the Tanzanian border. Here we overnight at a campsite with good facilities.

Chitimba

Chitimba is a small village with long, white beaches and clear waters, which make it a great place to relax. On the shores of Lake Malawi, there is some amazing scenery and many places to hike.

Day 35: Iringa

Fri 28 Jun 2013

Border Information: Exit Malawi at Kaporo, enter Tanzania at Kaporo.

Long travel day as we enter Tanzania and its southern highlands.

We set up camp before the town of Iringa (530km, approx. 9-10 hours) on the grounds of a local farmhouse.

Activity	Approximate Cost
Overnight at the Old Farm house in Iringa	Included in tour

Iringa

Iringa is set into the slopes of a cliff and overlooks the Little Ruaha River. One place of interest is the markets. They are full of many Tanzanian cultures including the Dabaga chili sauce. This is a treasure to East Africa. Many locals will flock to the scene and you can always see the vibrant colours of the clothes and of Iringa and Tanzania itself.

Day 36: Dar Es Salaam, Mikumi

Sat 29 Jun 2013

Heading for Dar es Salaam on the coast we travel through Mikumi National Park. The journey today is 530kms. Once in Dar es Salaam, we set up camp on a balmy beach outside of the city.

Activity	Approximate Cost
Overnight camping on the white beaches of the Indian ocean near Dar Es Salaam	Included in tour

Dar Es Salaam

Dar es Salaam, Tanzania's old capital, means Haven of Peace. The city acts as the gateway to the beautiful island of Zanzibar and the port area is fascinating to visit with its ocean-going "dhows" and inshore "ngalawas" (outrigger fishing canoes). Many of the buildings display Arabian influences and the melting pot of African, Muslim and South Asian influences give Dar a vibrant atmosphere, making it well worth exploring if you have the time.

Mikumi

Mikumi National Park is situated at the foot of the thickly wooded Uluguru Mountains and is home to large herds of elephant, buffalo and giraffe, as well as lions and leopards. It is Tanzania's third largest national park and we spend a couple of hours travelling through the park on the main route to and from Southern Tanzania. Although we do not make an off-road safari into the depths of the park on our trips, we usually still see a good selection of wildlife here as we pass by along the way.

Day 37: Zanzibar

Sun 30 Jun 2013

This morning we travel to the Dar es Salaam port and catch a local ferry to Zanzibar. The ferry is quite comfortable with airline type seats. The journey time is around 90 minutes. When we reach Zanzibar we clear customs and immigration after which we will make our way to our hotel in Stone Town.

Activity	Approximate Cost
3 nights exploring the spice island of Zanzibar	Included in tour

Zanzibar

The exotic spice island of Zanzibar Filled with idyllic beaches, winding cobblestone alleyways and fragrant bazaars, Zanzibar's rich history involves everything from slave traders to Arabian sultans and fruit



exporters. The sight of traditional dhows sailing along the coast makes it easy to imagine what the island was like back in the days of Livingstone.

Stone Town is the old port town of Zanzibar and the best way to experience the city is on foot, exploring the bazaars, shops, mosques, palaces, courtyards and intricate alleyways. When the sun is setting, you can enjoy a sundowner from a bar overlooking the seafront, before trying one of the Island's local seafood curries for dinner at one of the town's many restaurants.

The famous spices are grown in plantations outside of Stone Town and on our trips we head out on a Spice Tour that will dazzle your senses. This also includes a local meal and a tour around the main sites of Stone Town, to learn about the history of its former slave market. We also drive to the spice plantations where you will have the opportunity to touch, smell and taste various spices such as cinnamon, vanilla and ginger, and teas made with these spices. At the end of the day there will also be an opportunity to buy some of the locally grown spices.

The other side to Zanzibar is its many beaches. The northern beaches enjoy beautiful white sand and sparkling blue sea - the Indian Ocean at its best. Try snorkeling or diving, eat sumptuous seafood, or simply relax in a hammock underneath a coconut tree with a good book.

Day 38: Zanzibar

Mon 01 Jul 2013

On our second day here we take in a guided Spice tour before heading to the northern beaches and enjoy white

sand and sparkling blue sea. Our accommodation on these nights is in twin share rooms with en-suites.

Activity	Approximate Cost
Guided tour of Spice Plantations and local lunch	Included in tour

Day 39: Zanzibar

Tue 02 Jul 2013

There is plenty of time on the northern beaches to enjoy the Indian Ocean at its best. Try snorkeling or diving, eat sumptuous seafood, or simply relax in a hammock underneath a coconut tree with a good book.

Activity	Approximate Cost
Snorkelling day trip, Zanzibar	USD 35
Dhow trip, Zanzibar	USD 40
Prison Island tour, Zanzibar	USD 25
Scuba dive, Zanzibar	USD 80

Day 40: Dar Es Salaam

Wed 03 Jul 2013

Today we transfer back to the ferry (approx. 45 minutes) and return to our campsite by the beach outside Dar es Salaam arriving in the late afternoon.

Activity	Approximate Cost
Hydrofoil over to Zanzibar	Included in tour

Day 41: Marangu

Thu 04 Jul 2013

We overland most of the day as we climb high onto the slopes of Kilimanjaro and to the village of Marangu, the journey is about 560km. We camp in the grounds of the very colonial Marangu hotel where upgrades may be available.

Activity	Approximate Cost
Overnight stay in Marangu with time for early morning views of Kilimanjaro	Included in tour

Marangu

The small village of Marangu is located on the lower slopes of Mount Kilimanjaro. The fertile fields are irrigated by streams that are fed by Mt. Kilimanjaro's glaciers.

Day 42: Mshiri Village, Arusha

Fri 05 Jul 2013

Early start to view Kilimanjaro & then walking tour of Mshiri Village. After sampling a delicious local lunch on the tour we head to our campsite on the outskirts of Arusha (120Km, 5Hrs) where we camp for the night.

Activity	Approximate Cost
Guided walk and Visit to the Kilimanjaro Village Educational project	Included in tour

Mshiri Village

Situated close by to Marangu is the Village Education Project at Mshiri Village. Beginning with a walking tour of Mshiri Village, the base for the Village Education Project we can witness the day-to-day life of the Chagga people, long established as crop-growers on the fertile slopes of Mt Kilimanjaro. We walk around their shamba (farm). We also visit the primary school as well as the other institutions where local young people are taught various skills. For more information on the Village Education Project visit www.kiliproject.org.

Arusha

On our trips we make a short stop in Arusha. Arusha is Tanzania's second major city and used to be the capital of the East African community. The town sits in lush countryside near the foot of Mount Meru and enjoys a temperate climate throughout the year. Surrounding it are many coffee, wheat and maize estates tended by the Arusha and Meru people. The town is the centre of Tanzania's safari business and is bustling and busy.

Day 43: Serengeti National Park

Sat 06 Jul 2013

Today we are up with the sun and after packing our camping and personal gear into 6 person jeeps we make an early start, heading out through the Ngorongoro Crater reserve and conservation area to our Campsite in the Serengeti National Park.

On a Dragoman trip you will bush camp within the Serengeti park itself. The camps we stay at are very simple, although they do have showers and flush toilets, located in the middle of the plains, surrounded by the wildlife - falling asleep to the nocturnal noises of Serengeti is a truly unique experience. During your stay your leader will outline the basic safety rules and precautions that must be followed when camping in an unfenced location where wild animals are present.

Activity	Approximate Cost
48 hrs on Jeep safari in the Serengeti National Park	Included in tour

Serengeti National Park

The wide open plains of the Serengeti, green after the rains, brown and burnt in the dry season and home to thousands of hoofed animals and fierce predators, is perhaps the quintessential image of



Africa. Flat and rolling with long grasses, the plains get its name from the Masai word siringitu, "the place where the land moves on forever". Game viewing in the Serengeti is amazing and as you camp out at night, don't be surprised to hear lions in the distance as you recount your amazing sightings from during the day. In normal circumstances we would expect to see the Big 5 during our stay in the Serengeti. The Serengeti Plains usually live up to every-one's expectations. This is the classic East African scenery of rolling grasslands is dotted with Acacia trees. In normal circumstances we would expect to see all of the Big 5 during our stay in the park.

Responsible Travel Note: You will notice many Masai villages in the region of the Serengeti and Ngorongoro crater. While it is of course fascinating to visit different cultures, past experience has shown that these villages exist primarily as businesses. You will be charged an entry fee of approx. US\$20 and the Masai will try very hard to sell souvenirs to you. While many clients still enjoy the experience, others have found it artificial and uncomfortable. We would very much prefer that Dragoman clients choose to by-pass this activity as we feel it negatively impacts the Masai culture and your perception of this culture. Unfortunately the tourist village business is such a high earner that we have been unable to find an "True" Masai experience in Tanzania, which is disappointing for all.

For those who really want to spoil themselves with the ultimate game viewing experience, an optional balloon ride over the Serengeti at sunrise will leave you with some unforgettable memories. If you pre-book this activity with us you will be picked up and driven to the launch site early in the morning. Here you will receive a safety briefing from your pilot and help to inflate the balloon. You will then glide through the dawn, sometimes at tree height providing amazing wildlife photography opportunities, sometimes ascending to get an overview of the enormity of the Serengeti and the spectacular early morning sight of teeming herds of animals as they set out on their movements for the day. Upon landing and before being returned to your vehicle and group you'll be treated to a five star bush breakfast!

Please note the balloon safari must be pre-booked in advance through us and the option cannot be guaranteed until confirmation. Weather conditions sometimes stop the balloon flying in which case a full refund will be made. It does get booked up well in advance so you should book early.

Day 44: Ngorongoro Crater, Serengeti National Park

Sun 07 Jul 2013

Full day game driving in the Serengeti NP before heading back to the Serengeti camp site for our second night.

Activity	Approximate Cost
Hot Air Balloon ride in the Serengeti (This must be pre booked through your sales consultant. The cost for this is USD 650 approximately \$650 USD)	

Ngorongoro Crater

The Ngorongoro Crater is a huge caldera - a volcano which collapsed in an immense explosion. It measures 19km in diameter and 265km² in area. On our trips we make the most of our safari in the crater, spending between four and five hours exploring the area which is sometimes called the "Garden of Eden". There is an excellent chance of spotting many of the Big Five, not to mention many other species.



Day 45: Ngorongoro Crater, Mto Wa Mbu

Mon 08 Jul 2013

Leaving the Serengeti very early this morning we visit the world famous Ngorongoro Crater. We will descend into the crater on a fabulous game drive and picnic lunch before heading to our well equipped campsite in the village of Mto Wa Mbu where we will enjoy our last camp group meal together.

Activity	Approximate Cost
Jeep safari into the Ngorongoro Crater Reserve	Included in tour

Mto Wa Mbu

Mto Wa Mbu is the halfway point between Arusha and the Ngorongoro crater. It is a place to explore and The Curio market is a good place to start. The local merchants will want you to buy their products, a lot are ebony carvings and Massai spears. They are proud of their goods and want to share the culture with others. Occasionally there is a cattle market where the Maasi people will gather with their cows. It is a spectacular site as thousands of people gather at a time.

Day 46: Nairobi

Tue 09 Jul 2013

Border Information: Exit Tanzania at Namanga, enter Kenya at Namanga.

Set off early, heading for the border with Kenya and on to Nairobi (390 km, approx 9-10 hrs).

On arrival in Nairobi we'll be dropped at our finishing point hotel. No accommodation is provided for tonight, but we are able to book you additional accommodation in Nairobi. Please ask at time of booking.

Important: Please don't book any international flights until after 9pm this evening.

If you're staying on, why not head out to explore the National Museum of Kenya, the Karen Blixen Museum (author of Out of Africa), or Bomas of Kenya where traditional homesteads of several Kenyan tribes are displayed in an outdoor village.

If you are on a combination trip that is continuing North on to Ethiopia this night is not covered by kitty.

Activity	Approximate Cost
Karen Blixen Museum, Nairobi	USD 14
Giraffe Centre, Nairobi	USD 12
Carnivore Restaurant, Nairobi	USD 40
Bomas of Kenya, Nairobi	USD 40
National Museum, Nairobi	USD 14

Nairobi

Nairobi is a lively city with a cosmopolitan atmosphere. The Kenyan capital takes its name from the Maasai meaning 'Place of Cool Waters'. Today it is a busy, bustling place that comes alive through its many markets, shops, bars and restaurants, not to mention its vibrant nightlife. If you have time to explore the city, the National Museum of Kenya and Karen Blixen Museum are both worth a visit, or you can get up close to the Giraffe's and help to feed them at the Langata Giraffe Centre.



Day 47: Nairobi

Wed 10 Jul 2013

Border Information: If Joining in Nairobi, enter Kenya at Nairobi Airport.

Group meeting at 18:00hrs. Staying in a comfortable hotel with good facilities.

If you arrive early why not head out and explore the National Museum of Kenya, the Karen Blixen Museum (author of Out of Africa), or Bomas (displays of traditional homesteads of several Kenyan tribes in an outdoor village).

Hotel for the night: Kivi Milimani Hotel
 Kivi Milimani Hotel.
 Milimani Road
 PO Box 20681
 Nairobi
 +254-20-2722358

Activity	Approximate Cost
Overnight in Kenya's capital, Nairobi	Included in tour
NNP Animal orphanage & Safari walk, Nairobi	USD 20
Karen Blixen Museum, Nairobi	USD 14
Giraffe Centre, Nairobi	USD 12
Carnivore Restaurant, Nairobi	USD 40
Bomas of Kenya, Nairobi	USD 40
National Museum, Nairobi	USD 14

Day 48: Lake Naivasha

Thu 11 Jul 2013

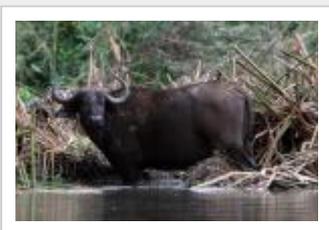
This morning we depart for our camp on the shores of Lake Naivasha (140 km, approx 3-4 hours), one of the most beautiful of the Great Rift Valley bodies of water, to relax by the lakeside.

Our camp ground has showers and flush toilets.

Activity	Approximate Cost
Visit to the Elsamere Born Free foundation & High tea at Lake Naivasha	Included in tour
Walking safaris with big game in Naivasha	USD 40
Hippo spotting boat trip, Lake Naivasha	USD 20

Lake Naivasha

One of the few freshwater lakes in the Great Rift Valley, Lake Naivasha has floating islands of papyrus reeds and a border of flat-topped acacias. It's also home to a healthy population of hippos a tremendous variety of birds and the Elsamere Conservation Centre, once the home of the Adamsons of 'Born Free' fame.



We have the morning free to explore a little more before departing for our campsite near to Nakuru town (120 km, approx 2-3 hours).

The following day we head into Nakuru National Park for a game drive in Jeeps.

Activity	Approximate Cost
Safari in Lake Nakuru National Park	Included in tour
Kenyan colonial farm visit	

Nakuru National Park

Lake Nakuru National Park was established in 1968 to protect the huge flocks of lesser and greater flamingos that live here. At times there are over one million of these spectacular birds roaming around the arid waters of the soda lake that is the centrepiece of the park. Even if you are not a keen birdwatcher the sight is inspiring and it is not hard to understand why the lake has become such a favourite for African wildlife documentaries. Nakuru is also where much of the film "Out of Africa" was shot.



The park is located on the floor of the Rift Valley and is a mixture of bushland, forest and rocky escarpment. Each area is an important habitat for many different species of wildlife. Besides the prolific birdlife, the park is also well established as one of East Africa's premier parks for big game. Beside the lake, hippo, waterbuck, warthogs, Bohor's reedbuck and zebra can regularly be found. Further up in the forests there's a large population of black and white colobus monkeys; and the ultimate forest predator, the leopard. The bushland on the valley floor is home to a large variety of antelope and gazelle including eland, impala, Chandler's reedbuck and the tiny dikdik; and the inevitable pride of lions. You can also see Rothschild giraffe here, but Nakuru's biggest draw is probably it's rhinos. In the late 1980s the Kenyan Wildlife Services used the park as a rhino sanctuary, and it now has a stable black and white rhino population.

Day 51: Naro Moru

Sun 14 Jul 2013

Leaving the park early this morning, we travel through fantastic scenery as we travel to the slopes of Mt Kenya, spending the night on the grounds of one of the many lodges that are dotted around the area.

We might choose to utilise one of our spare days here to explore nearby Sweet Water Game Sanctuary or take the opportunity to explore the lower slopes of Mt Kenya.

Day 49 to 50: Nakuru National Park

Fri 12 Jul to Sat 13 Jul 2013

Activity	Approximate Cost
Overnight in Naro Moru at the foothills of Mount Kenya	Included in tour
Horse riding, Naro Moru	USD 15
Nayaroï caves (Mau Mau) & waterfalls, Naro Moru	USD 15
Game driving in Sweetwaters Game Reserve, Naro Moru	USD 100
Nature Trails, Naro Moru	USD 10

Day 52 to 53: Samburu National Reserve, Samburu community village visit

Mon 15 Jul to Tue 16 Jul 2013

We travel on to Samburu National Reserve (140 km, approx 4-5hours).

We'll take a game drive into the park and also visit a Samburu Village just outside the Samburu National Reserve

The camp is in the heart of the park. Facilities are drop toilets and cold showers.

Activity	Approximate Cost
Wildlife safari in Samburu National Reserve	Included in tour
Visit to Samburu tribal community and cultural project	Included in tour

Samburu National Reserve

The Samburu region has hardly been touched by tourism and its pristine wilderness is home to a fascinating mix of Kenya's nomadic tribes who still retain traditional ways of life. These tribes include the Samburu, Rendille, Turkana, and Kalenjin.



The Samburu National Reserve is famous for its reticulated giraffes, Grevy's zebras, graceful gerenuks, and Beisa oryx, whilst crocodiles are often seen in the river. If we are lucky, we may also see lions or leopards here. The Ewaso Nyiro River meanders through the reserve forming a ribbon of oases in the parched landscape.

We will visit the Samburu Cultural Centre outside Samburu National Reserve. Similar in appearance to the Maasai but lesser known, the Samburu are a proud warrior tribe. Here we watch traditional Samburu dancing, and learn about Samburu tribal life and

customs. The project is run by Samburu tribesmen for the benefit of the community.

Samburu community village visit

We stay at a Samburu village just outside the Samburu National Reserve. Similar in appearance to the Maasai but less known, the Samburu are a proud warrior tribe. Here we watch traditional Samburu dancing, and learn about Samburu tribal life and customs. The project is run by Samburu tribesmen for the benefit of the community.

Day 54 to 55: Moyale, Marsabit

Wed 17 Jul to Thu 18 Jul 2013

The following day we travel on to Marsabit (240 km, approx 6-7 hours). We will travel through the black lunar landscape and pass mountain greenery, spectacular craters, watercourses, bush country and termite mounds.

Due to security issues in this particular area we will be accompanied by a police escort.

The following day we cross the border in to Ethiopia and the border town of Moyale (265 km, approx 7-8 hours), where we set up camp.

Activity	Approximate Cost
Remote overland journey through the wilds of southern Ethiopia and northern Kenya	

Moyale

The market town of Moyale splits the countries of Kenya and Ethiopia. There is a nice atmosphere that runs throughout the town and more of this can be discovered through exploring.

Marsabit

Marsabit lies on the extinct volcano of Mount Marsabit. Surrounded by forests on the hills, it is a contrasting image to the deserts in the background. At the heart of the forest is Lake Paradise. This gorgeous site attracts animals such as elephants and buffaloes to the spot and this and the Bongole Crater create a fascinating location for people all over to come and gaze at the beauty of the town.

Day 56: Konso

Fri 19 Jul 2013

We have a full day of travel on towards Konzo (330 km, approx 7-8 hours) home to the local Konso people. We will have time to explore the local market and perhaps take a tour of some traditional houses.

Activity	Approximate Cost
Overnight in Konso, centre of the Konso people	Included in tour
Get involved in the Konso Development Association tree planting project	USD 20
Take a guided tour of the village of Konso	USD 5
Visit the cultural handicraft market in Konso	

Konso

In the far south of Ethiopia on the banks of the Sagan river is Konso, gateway to the Omo Valley. The whole way of life in the villages here has changed little over the centuries and old traditions are strongly upheld.



Konso Development Association (KDA)

Some 550 km south of Addis Ababa, near to Konso, the Gersale Village is working rehabilitate and conserve land that has been exploited by years of overuse.

The Konso Development Association (KDA) is working with the local community to rehabilitate degraded lands in the Gersale village. The community-based nursery raises a range of tree seedlings while soil and water conservation activities lay the groundwork for reviving an ecosystem in otherwise harsh conditions. After touring the nursery you will be able to plant seedlings in a degraded area during a ceremony blessed by a local elder. Nametags with the name of the donor, date of the planting and country of origin will be made to commemorate the donation and hung in the nursery. The collection of nametags will represent a global village of travelers and donors who have worked alongside local villagers to restore the natural resource base and provide sustainable livelihoods through a healthier, more productive ecosystem.

To ensure sustainability, part of the travelers' contribution goes towards hiring community members to regularly water and care for the seedlings.

Reforestation revitalizes land, allowing farmers to eventually work the soil in a sustainable way, and attracts native wildlife. Locals raise trees in community-based nurseries, cultivating a variety of seedlings and create "Community Commitment" enclosures to protect newly planted seedlings. Soil and water conservation activities help ensure that the community led effort is sustainable long-term. Already, KDA and local community members have planted over 40,000 trees in sensitive watersheds and have a goal of planting at least 150,000 more.

How you can help

You can plant trees in the Gersale Village by letting your tour leader know you want to make a donation and include a visit to the project during your visit to Konso. While traveling you can donate directly to our project partners in the field as part of your visit. Upon return you can also donate to these projects on the Global Giving website online.

\$20 = to plant a tree in Konso and support its maintenance by local communities

About KDA

KDA was founded in 2000 as a response to the natural and socio-economic problems at the root the region's pervasive poverty. KDA is a community-based development organization that facilitates work to sustainably improve the livelihood and living conditions of the people in the Woreda region.

Day 57 to 59: Omo Valley Region Sat 20 Jul to Mon 22 Jul 2013

In the far south of the country lies the Omo Valley area. We drive down through this remote region (145 km, approx 5-6 hours) to the settlement of Turmi which is our launch point for the Omo Valley. From here we will spend 3 nights and 4 days visiting a combination of markets and small tribal settlements in the surrounding region.

You should be aware we will be travelling through very remote areas where road and sanitary conditions will be rough. We will staying in basic camp sites.

Activity	Approximate Cost
Guided Omo Valley Tribal Tour visiting either the Hamar, Banna, Mursi or Ari tribes.	Included in tour

Omo Valley Region

The Omo Valley region is unusual in that it is home to so many different tribes all living very close to one another in such a small area. Anthropologists believe that this is because thousands of years ago this area of Africa acted as a kind of ethnic crossroads, as different groups of people migrated between north, south, east and west.



Exploring the many small communities and settlements here will give you a fascinating insight into the different tribes, their cultures, traditions and way of life. On Dragoman trips we travel with a local guide, who will be able to introduce us to the Hamar, Arbore and the Dascensch tribes, among others.

There are also other tribal groupings throughout the area and our guide will point out the different tribes and their customs. Life is distinctly tribal throughout the region, with few modern amenities.

Day 60 to 61: Arba Minch

Tue 23 Jul to Wed 24 Jul 2013

The following day we drive to Arba Minch (110 km, approx 2-3 hours).

We spend time here to allow exploration of the area. Options include a five-hour boat trip into Lake Chamo National Park to the Crocodile Market.

For those who prefer a less strenuous day, you can hire bikes and ride around the local area, or perhaps visit the local government-run crocodile farm.

In Arba Minch for two nights we stay in a hotel.

Activity	Approximate Cost
2 nights exploring Arba Minch and the surrounding area	Included in tour
Bicycle hire, Arba Minch	USD 10
Boat trip on Lake Chamo to see the crocodile 'market'	USD 65
Visit to the Crocodile farm, Arba Minch	USD 5

Arba Minch

Meaning 'forty springs', Arba Minch takes its name from the streams found between the two Rift Valley lakes of Abaya and Chamo. The town has stunning views over the lakes and surrounding forested areas, and also has an excellent and vibrant market.

Lake Chamo National Park is home to what the locals refer to as the 'crocodile market'. This is a place on the shores of the lake where vast numbers of crocs congregate, some of which reach over seven metres in length. The lake is home to the Guji and Ganjule people who traditionally hunt hippos and are famed for their 'ambatch boats', which resemble the boats carved in the tombs of the ancient Egyptians

Day 62: Wendo Genet

Thu 25 Jul 2013

We head today to Wendo Genet located approx. 35Kms from the town of Awasa located on the shores of Lake Awasa.

Tonight we will camp in the grounds of the Hot Spring Hotel.

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Activity	Approximate Cost
Relax in the Hot Springs at Wendo Genet	USD

Wendo Genet

Wendo Genet (also known as Wondo Genet) is a resort town in Ethiopia. Located southeast of Shashemene in the Sidama Zone of the Southern Nations.

Wendo Genet is known for its hot springs and is surrounded by primary Ethiopian forests. The Wendo Genet hotel was established in 1964, on land used as recreation site for the royal family until 1975. Emperor Haile Selassie bequeathed its name, meaning "Wondo Paradise", in reference to the beautiful panorama with a rich endowment of forests, wildlife and abundant water.

Day 63: Awassa

Fri 26 Jul 2013

Today we will head to Awassa to visit the Awassa Childrens Project which is an organisation dedicated to housing, feeding, educating, providing health care and AIDS Education to children orphaned by the AIDS epidemic in Africa.

After visiting the project we will stop in Awassa town for shopping and stay overnight in Awassa Town in a small local run pension.

Activity	Approximate Cost
Visit to the Awassa Childrens Project	Included in tour

Awassa

Awassa (also spelled Awasa or Hawassa) is a city in Ethiopia, on the shores of Lake Awassa in the Great Rift Valley where fishing is its major local industry.

Awassa was capital of the former Sidamo Province from about 1978 until the province was abolished with the adoption of the 1995 Constitution. This city is home to Hawassa University, Awasa Adventist College, and a major market. Important local attractions include the St. Gabriel Church and the Awassa Kenema Stadium.

During our time in Awassa we will visit the Awassa Childrens Project. The Awassa Children's Project promotes sensible, culturally responsible relief work aimed at assisting children primarily orphaned by AIDS, educating people in Africa's Sub-Saharan region about AIDS prevention, and offering a proactive and

immediate approach towards the resolution of serious health and social issues facing the region.

The Awassa Children’s Project (ACP) is a grassroots non-profit organization formed in 2001. ACP supports several organizations in Awassa, Ethiopia: a children’s centre that provides housing, food and education for over 60 children orphaned by AIDS; One Love Theatre (OLT), an AIDS education theatre company; and the Awassa Youth Campus, a community center in downtown Awassa which features-free to all Awassa children-aikido, sports, tutoring, art, music and a library, among other activities. These organizations continue to grow and dramatically improve the lives of Awassa children and the community in which they live. Especially in these times of dramatically increasing food costs in Ethiopia, your support is critical to our continued success.

For further information on the project please go to <http://www.awassachildrensproject.org/>

Day 64 to 66: Bale Mountains National Park
Sat 27 Jul to Mon 29 Jul 2013

Leaving Wendo Genet we drive on towards the Bale Mountains National Park (280 km, approx. 10-11 hours).

We will drive high onto the plateau in search of the Simien fox and, time allowing, you may be able to hire horses and follow the riding trails.

In the Bale Mountains we stay in a lodge.

Activity	Approximate Cost
3 nights in the wilds of Bale Mountains National Park	Included in tour

Bale Mountains National Park

Bale Mountains National Park is situated on a high plateau surrounded by mountain peaks which soar to over 4000 metres in height. As you climb into the hills the terrain changes from forest on the lower slopes through junipers and heather to the exotic moorlands of the plateau, criss-crossed by fast-flowing streams. This beautiful park is home to three species unique to Ethiopia; the Simien red fox, Menelik’s Bushbuck and the Mountain Nyala. There are some 200 species of bird within the park including 13 of Ethiopia’s 23 endemic species.



Day 67 to 68: Lake Ziway, Tulu Gudo Island
Tue 30 Jul to Wed 31 Jul 2013

North of the town of Shashemene is the beautiful Lake Ziway.

We will stay at Lake Ziway for 2 nights during which time we will take a boat tour across Lake Ziway to Tulu Gudo Island for a guided tour.

During your time at Lake Ziway you will also have the option to become involved in the Stoves and Livelihoods community project whereby you can make a donation to the project.

Our 2 nights will be spent in a small local run hotel.

Activity	Approximate Cost
Guided tour of Tulu Gudo Island on Lake Ziway	Included in tour
Scenic boat trip across Lake Ziway to Tulu Gudo Island	Included in tour
Get involved with the "Stoves & Livelihood" project at Lake Ziway	USD 34

Lake Ziway

Lake Ziway, about 60 miles south of Addis Ababa, and its surrounding area, nurtures an array of wildlife. Birds, hippopotamuses and fish roam the lake, which is dotted with five islands. One of the islands, Tulo Gudo, is said to have housed the Ark of the Covenant in the ninth century. Long inhabited by the Gurage, an ethnic group rich in history and culture, the areas surrounding the lake are now under unprecedented pressure from deforestation.

Promoting Energy Saving Stoves to Save Livelihoods Sustainable Environment and Development Action (SEDA)

Persistent poverty has created an informal industry of deforestation. Workers cut trees to sell as fuel and women gather wood to cook long hours over open fires.

The “Stoves and Livelihoods” project is designed to improve the health of local families and conserve the natural environment by introducing energy saving stoves to communities throughout the Central Rift Valley. These low-tech stoves cut firewood consumption in half. In addition to conserving local forests, the project protects women and children, who are most susceptible to the common respiratory illnesses caused by traditional indoor cooking methods. Often responsible for cutting firewood, women and children save up to two hours a day gathering fuel. And by protecting the natural environment, the project and its champions are creating a virtuous cycle that

promotes a sustainable tourism economy, which pays dividends to workers and maintains the destination's iconic appeal.

How you can help.....

You can provide a cook stove to someone in need by letting your tour leader know you want to make a donation during the visit to the project. You can donate directly to our project partners in the field as part of your visit. Upon return you can also donate to these projects on the Global Giving website online.

Even small donations can make a huge impact!

\$34 = 1 cook stove provided to a family, and training to help ensure reduction in deforestation and cleaner household air

About SEDA

SEDA has been working on promotion of environmentally friendly technologies complimented by various environmental rehabilitation, livelihood development and community based eco-tourism projects in numerous districts of Central Rift Valley since 1994. The organization has focused on promoting energy saving stoves as a key environmental development strategy. So far, more than 2000 women have been trained and given fuel efficient stoves through SEDA.

Tulu Gudo Island

Among Ethiopia's many ancient legends is that of the Ark of the Covenant. One of the islands on Lake Ziway, Tullu Gudo, is said to have housed the Ark of the Covenant in the ninth century

The story goes that King Menelik I, the son of the Queen of Sheba and King Solomon, brought the powerful relic to Ethiopia in the 4th century B.C. Hidden within the Saint Mary Zion Church in Aksum, the Ark rested peacefully until the 10th century when the violent campaigns of warrior-Queen Gudit threatened to destroy the church. To protect the Ark, it was carried far south to the island now known as Tulu Gudo, where it remained for some 70 years before being safely returned to Aksum. Those that brought the Ark to Tulu Gudo came to be known as the Zay people, the guardians of the Ark. Tulu Gudo's Maryam Tsion Monastery boasts a number of millennium-old manuscripts that are said to have accompanied the Ark of the Covenant on its journey to the island.

On Tulu Gudo Island we learn about the unique culture of the Zay people. Though just 900 of them live on the island, their culture and language are completely different from the surrounding Oromo people. We pass through the village, meet the community, experience the local way of life, and discover traditional weaving. The Maryam Tsion Monastery is the highlight of the tour. Home to a fascinating collection of ancient relics dating back over 1,000 years, the monastery houses relics such as the beautiful Gedle-Kidusen manuscript, a parchment book written in Ge'ez, as well as a number of stunning platters and crosses.

Day 69: Addis Ababa

Thu 01 Aug 2013

We travel from Lake Abiyata to Addis Ababa (215 km, approx 5-6 hours).

Why not take the chance to head to one of the city's many restaurants for the chance to eat some local food and perhaps listen to some traditional music.

In Addis Ababa we stay in a hotel.

Activity	Approximate Cost
Overnight in Ethiopia's capital, Addis Ababa	Included in tour
Overland journey to Addis through the immense Blue Nile Gorge	Included in tour

Addis Ababa

Referred to more commonly as "Addis", Addis Ababa (220 km, approx 7-8 hours) lies amongst wooded hills at an altitude of about 2300 metres, giving it a pleasant climate. Addis has many sights to offer



visitors and we have free time to explore the sites. Get a fascinating glimpse into Ethiopia's many tribal groups at the Ethnological Museum, see the stunning fossil collection at the National Museum, and don't miss the chaotic bustle of the Merkato (local market). All manner of arts and crafts can be found in the souvenir shops on Churchill Avenue.

Day 70: Addis Ababa

Fri 02 Aug 2013

Border Information: If finishing in Addis, exit Ethiopia at Addis Airport.

If continuing on then you will have free time to explore the sights of Addis Ababa.

Activity	Approximate Cost
Visit "Lucy" at the National Museum, Addis Ababa	
Stroll through the Mercato one of the largest markets in Africa, Addis Ababa	
Visit Africa Hall - a symbol of African independence and optimism, Addis Ababa	
St George's Cathedral (Giorgis Cathedral) built to commemorate Ethiopia's victory over the Italians, Addis Ababa	
Visit the Menelik Mausoleum, built to serve as the tombs of emperors and princes, Addis Ababa	

Visa Information:

Important Notes

The routes, activities and places visited described in these trip notes are intentions and are meant as a rough guide only.

We intend following the planned route but exact night stops cannot be guaranteed. It sometimes happens that we decide to make a change to our basic planned itinerary. This may be for a variety of reasons - climatic, road or bureaucratic conditions may demand it. By their very nature overland itineraries need to be flexible and the regions that we are travelling through are often unpredictable. We run adventure journeys in off the beaten track areas, often in areas without western infrastructure. You should expect that some these areas do not adhere to western safety standards.

Codeshare note

Local Partner:

Dragoman runs this trip in conjunction with our trusted local partner Intrepid Guerba Kenya who share our ethos for adventure travel and have had many years' expertise in over landing.

Our departures are code shared, with certain departures run by Dragoman in one of our vehicles, others by Intrepid (Intrepid Guerba Kenya) in one of theirs. This allows us to run many more departures so you have more choice when you want to travel.

You'll get the same itineraries, activities and accommodation on both departures and the vehicles of both fleets have been standardised to a common specification, so you won't be compromising on quality. All departures have three-crew incl. an African camp master. The only difference is that the intrepid Guerba crew will all be African.

If you would like to know who is running your departure, Dragoman or Intrepid Guerba Kenya, please ask at the time of booking.

Itinerary changes since brochure

Please note there are a couple of errors in our description of the trip, which refers to "visiting small villages in the Usambara Mountains" and "staying on a community project in Malawi". These do not happen on this trip.

Itinerary changes since brochure

In the introduction to this trip, the texts says "...for a stay with the Bushmen". This should read ..."for a visit to a Bushman community" as we do not stay overnight

As from the 1st January 2011 a new law in South Africa has been introduced whereby the cross border transport agency are no longer allowing foreign registered vehicles to enter the country. We will be working with a local South African

operator for the South African section of this tour whom will be providing the services of an alternative vehicle* and driver vetted by Dragoman. Your Dragoman Tour leader and local camp master will still accompany you on this section and your itinerary will remain unaffected.

*The vehicle used on this section will be an Overland Vehicle similar style to that of a Dragoman vehicle. However for smaller groups sizes where a large vehicle is not required smaller Land cruiser style vehicles may be used.

Serengeti Balloon Safari

The Balloon Safaris in the Masai Mara and Serengeti must be pre-booked through the UK and is subject to availability.

Physical Preparation

Physical preparation for the North, East & South Africa and Middle East Itineraries

Travelling in North, East & South Africa or Middle East can be demanding - long, rough travel days, dusty conditions and basic campsites all provide a challenge. The conditions in the North can be more challenging than in the East or South, where public camp sites and bathroom facilities can be very basic and may be non-existent in the case of bush camps. You will need to be fit enough to help every day with the camp chores (cooking, washing up, general camp set up) as well as putting up and taking down your own tent. There are some long driving days and some early morning starts. The step up into the overland vehicle, while not overly high can become tiring and you need to judge yourself to be physically fit enough to haul yourself up and down the step at least 8-10 times a day. There are some long days driving on rough roads on all itineraries.

Visa Information

Most countries we visit on our travels will require visas. Some are best obtained before you leave home and others can be obtained en-route. Whilst the ultimate responsibility for obtaining visas is yours, we will endeavour to assist you wherever possible.

The visa requirements for your trip vary depending on where you are from and where you are going. The information provided is given in good faith and we do try to keep the visa information as up to date as possible. Please be aware though that rules do change, often without prior warning, which is why it is important that you check for yourself.

For visas that are needed in advance you can choose to submit the applications directly to the relevant embassy / consulate. However our recommendation is that you use a visa agent to assist you with your applications. While this does increase the cost it will make the process much easier for you. Dragoman have teamed up with 'The Visa Machine' to create a safe, secure, hassle-free way of obtaining visas and visa advice. Our unique link within their website is designed to make the visa process as straightforward as possible. Simply go to <https://dragoman.thevisamachine.com> and click on your region of travel followed by your trip route and 'The Visa Machine' will advise you about not only the required visas but also the dates by which you should apply. 'The Visa Machine' can then assist you in the actual visa application thus taking all the worry and hassle out of the process. This should apply for ALL nationalities and countries of residence.

As you will need to submit your passport together with your applications, we recommend that you avoid making any travel plans in the weeks leading up to your departure. However if you do need to travel in this period please let us know as soon as possible so that we can help you work out the options for your visa application process.

Ethiopia

Most nationalities require a visa for entry to Ethiopia and you must obtain this before travel in your country of residency. Most Embassies or Consulates of Ethiopia only accept visa applications from nationals of the country in which the Embassy is located so for example the Ethiopian Embassy in London will only accept applications from British passport holders or those who hold an appropriate work / residency visa in their passport. Please see this website to find your closest embassy or consulate <http://embassy.goabroad.com/embassies-of/ethiopia>.

Important: If you have not obtained an Ethiopian visa before travel this could result in you having to send your passport back to your country of residency to obtain the visa at an extra personal cost, and could even result in you missing days of the trip waiting for your passport to return.

Please also note: If you are travelling on a long combination trip i.e. starting in Cape Town or Cairo you must apply for a 3 or 6 month visa to ensure the visa is still valid upon entry. The Embassies in Cairo and Nairobi no longer issue visas to non Egyptian or Kenyan residents so you will NOT be able to obtain one in either of these places.

Visa on arrival at Addis Ababa airport

Some tourist visas can also be issued on arrival at Addis Ababa Bole International Airport.

Tourist visas can only be issued on arrival to:

- foreign nationals who are coming from countries where there is no Ethiopian Mission
- foreign nationals who are coming from and are permanent residents in any of the following internationally recognised tourist-generating countries: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea Republic, Kuwait, Luxembourg, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Russian Federation, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States.

If applying for a tourist visa on arrival, visitors will need to bring with them two recent passport-sized photographs and no less than US \$20 before their application can be processed.

When applying for the visa the form will ask you for a contact in Ethiopia please put:

Hotel Taitu
Piazza
Addis Ababa
+251 111 560787

Kenya

Kenyan visas are required by most nationalities.

Single entry visas are available at the point of entry to most nationalities and cost \$50USD or \$20USD (post 2003 US dollar bills) for transit visas. (Some nationalities require visas to be purchased in advance - you MUST check before departure).

Multiple entry visas are required for people travelling to Rwanda to visit the Gorillas. We recommend that you obtain this in advance as you cannot obtain a Multiple entry visa at the border. However if you are unable to obtain a multiple entry visa before travel you will have to purchase Single visas upon each entry into Kenya at the border.

For more information, including application forms and visa fee rates, is available at <http://www.kenyahighcommission.net>. Kenya there is an airport departure tax of \$20. Payment is also accepted in Kenyan Shillings. This tax is normally included in the price of airline tickets but if you are unsure, you should check with the airline or travel company.

Tanzania

A visa is required by visitors of most nationalities including from the EU, USA and Australia. It is recommended you purchase your visa in advance. The cost is approximately US\$75 depending on nationality.

However it is possible to obtain a tourist visa for a single entry at the main ports of entry to Tanzania including Dar Es Salaam airport and the land borders. This is recommended if you are short on time before departure or travelling on a long combination trip that would mean a 3-month visa expiring before entry.

At the present time you do not require a multi entry visa to Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda due to an agreement between the three countries (ie if you exit Kenya to Tanzania you can re enter Kenya on the same visa). However if your trip visits Tanzania twice after a visit to a country other than those listed above, you may need to purchase two visas.

If you do require a multiple entry visa you will need to arrange this through a Tanzanian diplomatic mission before your arrival in Tanzania. Otherwise you will have to buy a single entry visa each time you enter the country.

If you do decide to obtain your visa in advance please use the following address on the application form:-

Kipepeo Beach & Village

P.O. Box 1520

Dar es Salaam,

Tanzania

Tel : +255 (0)754 276 178

A yellow fever vaccination certificate is required from travellers coming from areas with risk of yellow fever transmission. This is particularly relevant for those travelling to Tanzania from neighbouring African countries. See the Tanzanian Government website for more details: <http://www.tanzania.go.tz/immigration.html>.

Departure tax

On the 2nd of July 2012 the Tanzanian Government announced an increase to its passenger airport service charge from 5,000TSH to 10,000TSH for domestic departures, and from 30USD to 40USD for international departures.

This change comes into effect from 1st of July 2012 and will be included in any new Airline ticket costs. Passengers who have already purchased tickets will be required to pay the difference on departure.

Botswana

Citizens of Australia, UK, and USA do not need visas to visit Botswana as a tourist for up to three months. Citizens of other countries, including most EU countries, should check with the relevant consulates as to whether a visa is required.

For nationalities that do require a visa there is an Entry Visa Fee of approx. 500 Pula, which is equivalent to approx. 70 USD. This fee can only be paid in Pula and not in any other currency.

Those nationalities requiring visas will need a double/multiple entry visa and will need to obtain this before arrival into Botswana.

Namibia

Currently visas are not required for most nationalities to enter Namibia. Please check with the relevant visa office before departure to make sure there has been no change. If you do require a visa in advance you will need to apply for a Double entry visa.

Malawi

Citizens of Australia, New Zealand, the UK and USA do not require a visa to enter Malawi for stays of up to 90 days. All nationalities should check with the respective embassies for more information.

South Africa

Citizens of Australia, UK and most EU countries do not need visas to visit South Africa as a tourist for up to three months. Citizens of other countries should check with the relevant consulates as to whether a visa is required.

Your passports must be valid for no less than 30 days after the end of your intended visit.

South Africa authorities state that officially only one blank passport page is required for entry. But there have been reports that some South Africa officials insist on two blank pages. We recommend you have two blank pages.

Yellow fever

You must supply a yellow fever certificate issued at least 10 days before arrival in South Africa if you have travelled from a country with yellow fever. If you do not have a valid certificate, you will be denied entry to South Africa. As of 1st October 2011, South Africa will also consider Zambia as a country infected by Yellow Fever even though the WHO does not currently list Zambia.

Zimbabwe

Zimbabwean visas are required by most nationalities, including from the EU, US and Australia. All nationalities should check with their nearest Zimbabwean Embassy for more information. For most nationalities, Zimbabwean visas are available at the point of entry. If you plan to purchase your visa on arrival you will need US dollars cash.

The cost of a single entry visa is approximately 55USD.

Zimbabwean authorities are planning to introduce a new airport tax in the country to be used for the upgrading of all airports. The tax will be charged at 30USD and comes into effect for all air bookings ticketed as from April 2011.

TYPHOID: It is recommended that if you are travelling to Harare you make sure that your Typhoid vaccinations are up to date. There has been an outbreak of typhoid in parts of Harare, with over 1500 cases reported since October 2011. For more information speak to your doctor and see the World Health Organization (WHO) website.

Zambia

Zambian visas are required by most nationalities, including from the EU, US and Australia.

We advise that you obtain this visa in advance and costs approx. £35 GBP direct through the embassy or £70GBP through Travcour. All nationalities should check with their nearest Zambian Embassy for more information.

You may require an address in Zambia. If so you can use the following:-

Eureka Camping

Luskaka

on the Kafue Road

Tel: (+260 211) 272351 or 278110

Fax: (+260 211) 272351 E-mail: eurekacamp.zm@gmail.com

Personal Spending

Based on the range that previous travellers have spent on this trip, we recommend you allow between a minimum of US\$10 and a maximum of US\$20 per day.

This will cover individual expenses such as drinks, meals whilst out and also when staying in hotels, souvenirs, tips and personal permits.

What else you need to know

Currencies & Cash

It is not really worth trying to buy local currencies before you travel. Do also bear in mind that many countries have strict regulations about the amount of their own local currency you are allowed to import - if you are found with amounts in excess of the allowed amounts, it may well be confiscated!

For obvious security reasons we hesitate to recommend you bring lots of cash with you, a sensible mix of cash, travellers cheques, cash passports such as TravelEx cards and ATM cards is best. However, most of our past passengers have said they wished they had been told to bring more cash. Apart from the convenience of being able to change money in many more places, you will sometimes get a much better exchange rate for cash.

You should take a mixture of denomination notes. Banks and moneychangers in most countries will now only accept bills with a metallic strip running top to bottom of the bill and which are dated from **2003** or later. You should not take worn or damaged notes, or any that have been written on.

Cash machines are readily available in most of East and Southern Africa but are not always reliable therefore we recommend that you do not rely on them as your only source of cash. Please note that there are no cash machines in Sudan.

Credit cards such as Visa and American Express are the most commonly accepted, but be prepared for very high commission charges. Please do not rely on cards for daily use, as they are not always accepted outside of larger towns and cities. Please bring a mixture of small and large denominations as in more remote areas it can be hard to change amounts over \$50.

Pre and post trip accommodation and connecting flights

At Dragoman we believe you should make the most of the places you visit, so if you would like to see more of your joining or finishing point cities, why not book additional accommodation to extend your stay. Dragoman can take away the hassle of time zones and language barriers by making the booking for you. This accommodation is only available at the joining or finishing city of your trip, immediately before or after the trip you are travelling on.

While Dragoman is happy to assist with booking your pre and post trip accommodation, it is important that you understand you may be able to book your own room at a cheaper rate directly through the hotel or on the internet.

Our additional accommodation prices are based on the hotel's rate plus an administration fee. Please note our rates do not reflect last minute walk in rates or internet specials.

We can also book arrival airport transfers for you as long as we have your flight arrival details. These are normally payable in cash upon arrival, however we do have pre paid transfers in a few destinations.

Please contact our reservations team for details of the accommodation and transfers that we can offer as not all hotels offer this service.

Accommodation on tour

Dragoman overland trips are designed for shared accommodation, whether camping or staying in hotels and therefore do not involve a single supplement. Single travellers will share with people of the same sex for the duration of the trip, in accommodation ranging from twin to multi-share. The type and variety of accommodation is determined by conditions on each of our routes. The campsites will range from rather basic to those with excellent facilities, including swimming pools, restaurants and bars. In some cases it may also be possible to upgrade locally to bungalows, lodges or even tree-houses. One of the highlights of overlanding is that in more remote areas we will wild camp. This allows us to get far away from the tourist crowds to some beautiful, secluded spots. We will also arrange as many village or local homestays as possible, allowing us to get close to indigenous populations and ensures our money stays within local communities.

Group size?

The maximum group size we take on our overland journeys ranges from 19 to 22 depending on the geographical location, however the average number of passengers is more likely to be around 16.

Please note that there is an overlap of 2 trips in Zanzibar. This means a group starting a trip in Nairobi for example will visit Zanzibar at the same time as groups starting their trips in Dar es Salaam. In practical terms this means there could be up to 44 group members in Zanzibar at the same time.

Who travels with Dragoman?

Our passengers come from around the world and are always an interesting mix of nationalities and ages. On average there is a pretty even split, males to females and between solo travellers, couples and small groups of friends. We believe that overlanding should be open to as many people as possible and so although we have a minimum age limit of 18, as long as you are fit, healthy and passionate about travel, we are happy to take you, whatever your age is. One of the beauties of group travel is the camaraderie and friendships that are formed along the way and as well as the variety of people that you will meet.

Our Community

At any time before or after you book you can join our community - Dragoland. This is a great place to ask questions before you travel and catch up with your fellow travellers once your trip has finished. You can share photos, videos and stories You can also download a selection of free travel apps. See the home page to sign in, it's free and easy.

We also have a Facebook page where travellers regularly swap info with each other - you can [join here](#)

Our crew and guides

Our crew are passionate about travel and always up for adventure. It takes someone special to become a Dragoman leader. Our crew undergo the most intensive training program of all overland companies, spending 10 weeks learning the ropes at our base in Suffolk, UK and then up to six months on the road as a trainee. On all Dragoman overlanding trips two western crew who are responsible for the group and the overall organisation will accompany you. While not being guides in the traditional sense you can expect them to have a broad knowledge of the places visited and to offer suggestions of things to do and see. In East and Southern Africa we will also have an African camp master/cook who is in charge of running the camp and organising all of the meals. Their knowledge of the local produce makes shopping at the markets great fun and you will learn how to prepare and cook some unusual dishes. In the rest of Africa, South America and the majority of Central Asia and China we use local guides who may stay with us for just a few hours or will actually travel with us for some or all of the journey. In these cases they become a third crew member and are able to offer their local knowledge as well as a real insight into the lives of the local people.

(If travelling in East & Southern Africa, also please see the note about our code-share crew)

Your tour leader has a duty of care to all of their passengers and therefore they have the authority to ask passengers to leave the trip if they require medical assistance, are behaving in an anti-social manner or refuse to comply with local laws and customs. In all matters relating to the trip, the leader's decision will be final and we appreciate your respect of this.

Medical conditions

We ask all of our passengers to declare any pre-existing medical conditions and in some cases you will be asked to complete one of our medical questionnaires. For trips that travel to areas of high altitude we also require all passengers to complete an altitude questionnaire. The ratings for each trip are a good indication of how challenging they are and in some cases passengers should be prepared for some long driving days and possible limited facilities. We are always happy to give extra advice if you have additional concerns.

Vaccinations

Recommended vaccinations and other health protection measures vary according to region and recent bulletins issued by health authorities. It is essential to get the latest advice on the region(s) you are planning to travel in. It is essential that you check with either your doctor or a travel clinic in good time before you travel.

In the UK we have been working with Nomad Travel for many years and their website has comprehensive, up to date vaccination and health information. Dragoman customers will receive a 10% discount off all vaccinations given at [Nomad Travel clinics](#).

A good source of up to date information is the World Health Organisation - <http://www.who.int/en/>

Malaria

Get expert advice before travelling about types of malaria pills and take them as instructed. Recommended types do change from time to time and from area to area. Consult your vaccination centre for the most up-to-date requirements

The mosquito usually bites between the hours of dusk and dawn and so covering up by wear long-legged and long-sleeved clothing, preferably light coloured and buttoned at the wrists can help. Do not sleep without closing windows, tent doors or, if sleeping out, use a mosquito net. Wear repellent applied directly to the skin or soaked into clothing.

Treating clothes and mosquito nets with a Permetherin solution provides significant protection. It should be available at most travel stores. Mosquito coils are useful on still nights, in hotel rooms but cannot be used inside the tents.

Meals and group participation

On an overland journey you are more than just a passenger, you're part of the crew, pitching in to set up camp, shop for food, cook and generally help out. We operate a rota system, dividing the group into smaller units of 5 or 6 people, so that these duties are shared equally amongst the group. These jobs will include things like collecting water and firewood, loading the back locker, supervising the kitty and food stores etc. While camping on overland journeys, all meals will be included in the kitty and this means that you will be working as a group to prepare meals and cook for your group. (On trips south of Nairobi we have a cook on board the truck, however you will still be required to help prepare meals). If you have any dietary requirements please tell us at the time of booking and also remind your crew at your welcome meeting. A typical camp breakfast might be toast with spreads, cereal and something hot such as eggs or pancakes as well as tea and coffee. Lunch is almost always a sandwich heaped high with healthy salad and assorted fillings, with fruit to follow. Dinner might be a BBQ, risotto, pasta dish and there is always the chance to try some local cooking. Generally our passengers find the more they put into a trip, the more they benefit from it.

Responsible tourism & code of conduct

Dragoman is committed to ensuring that we have a positive impact on local communities and that we implement policies to minimise any negative impact on the local environment. We are dedicated to making sure that we adopt a responsible attitude to the areas through which we travel and believe that our trips should benefit the local people and their environment. Dragoman recognises that we are guests of local communities and strive to make these communities our partners, so that they benefit directly from our visit.

You can find full details of Dragoman's responsible tourism policy linked from the home page. All passengers are required to obey all laws of the countries through which we pass. This particularly applies to the smuggling of contraband and possession of narcotic drugs, firearms, antiquities and ivory. Any passenger found contravening such laws or customs may be required to leave the trip immediately with no refund of the trip price.

Overland travel and security

One of the real advantages of overland travel is that the vehicle provides a very real level of security when travelling. There is no doubt that a properly equipped overland vehicle, with safes, fully lockable doors and windows is an obvious advantage when travelling in much of the world. We recommend the use of a neck wallet or money belt whilst travelling for the safe-keeping of your passport, air tickets, cash and other valuable items (although most of these can be locked in the safe whilst you are on the trip) and advise passengers to leave any valuable jewellery, watches etc at home. Generally speaking, you will not be travelling on local public transport and will have the added security of travelling in a group with experienced crew on hand to offer advice.

Please note: Any personal effects that are left on the truck, even if they are stored in the safe, are left at your own risk and Dragoman cannot be held responsible for any damage or theft that may occur.

The safety of our passengers, leaders and operators is a major priority of Dragoman. With this in mind we monitor world events very closely. By the very nature of the adventure travel that we take, there are risks and hazards that are inherent in our itineraries. Dragoman makes operational decisions based on informed advice from a number of sources:

The British Foreign and Commonwealth Office travel advice

Reports from other travel companies and local suppliers

Leaders reports from off the road

Local contacts we have built up over 29 years of experience

Many national governments provide a regularly updated advice service on safety issues involved with international travel. You should always make yourself aware of the travel advice before you book and again before you travel. Below are links to some of the websites

Britain. <http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travelling-and-living-overseas/travel-advice-by-country>

Australia. <http://www.smartraveller.gov.au/>

New Zealand. <http://www.safetravel.govt.nz/>

United States. http://travel.state.gov/travel/travel_1744.html

Canada. http://www.voyage.gc.ca/countries_pays/menu-eng.asp

Dragoman has comprehensive passenger liability protection and tour operator insurance. These policies have total indemnities of £3,000,000 and £10,000,000 respectively. This is in addition to local vehicle insurance and your personal travel insurance.

Emergency contact

We have a dedicated 24 hour telephone number which should only be used once you have left the UK and in the event of a real emergency. Should you need to call the number, we will do what we can to help but please bear in mind that real progress or action may not be possible until normal office hours.

If your flight is delayed or cancelled, please let us know and then make your way to the joining hotel as instructed in these trip notes. If you cannot get through leave a message and a contact number as these will be regularly checked and the crew informed if necessary.

Emergency Number: +44 (0) 7985106564.

Insurance

It is a condition of booking that you have comprehensive travel insurance. Without evidence of valid travel insurance you will not be allowed to start the trip.

Whatever policy you choose, you must ensure that it is designed for adventure/overland travel. As such it must cover you for adventure activities such as white water rafting, trekking, horse-riding and that the 24 Hour Emergency Assistance Company must be experienced in handling situations in developing countries - for example they have the ability to arrange repatriation from remote areas such as the Sahara or if you were trekking in the Andes. Please double check if you have annual travel and/or credit card policies to ensure they have the cover you require, as many of these policies are not able to cope with adventure travel to remote areas. We recommend that any policy has the following minimum levels of cover: Medical (incl. repatriation) £5,000,000 Personal Liability £5,000,000 Cancellation and Curtailment £5,000 Loss of Baggage, personal effects, money and other inclusions are down to personal choice.

Issues on the trip

While we always endeavour to provide the best possible holiday experience, due to the nature of travel and the areas we visit sometimes things can and do go wrong. Should any issue occur while you are on your trip it is imperative that you discuss this with your group leader or our local partner straight away so that they can do their best to rectify the problem and save any potential negative impact on the rest of your trip.

We recognise that there may be times when your group leader may not be able to resolve a situation to your satisfaction. If this is the case please contact our customer relations department on customer_relations@dragoman.co.uk. You may also choose to provide details in your feedback questionnaire which we ask you to complete at the end of your trip but we do ask you to be aware that it is very difficult for us to provide any practical help after the trip is complete.

Passports

Check that your passport will still be valid for 6 months after the end of the trip - this is important as some countries WILL refuse entry to anyone whose passport is due to expire. A temporary or "visitor's" passport is not valid on our trips. You will need to provide us with your passport details prior to departing for your trip. If you change your passport please remember to inform us.

Luggage & Kit List

Although you will not have to carry your main bag long distances you will need to help load and unload them onto the truck. For this reason we recommend that you use a backpack or soft bag rather than a heavy suitcase. During your trip your main luggage will be kept in the back locker so you will also need a small daypack. This can be used to carry your camera, water bottle and other personal effects for daily use.

The size of baggage that can be brought on this tour is limited by the locker space on the truck. Different trucks have different-sized lockers however to be safe we recommend that your bag be no larger than 66cm deep, 30cm wide, and 30cm high. The weight limit for luggage on all trucks is maximum 20kg. Backpacks should not have an external frame unless it can be easily removed and stored separately to avoid damaging other people's luggage.

Your clothes and equipment should be appropriate for the conditions you are travelling in. On overland trips Dragoman will provide all camping equipment apart from sleeping bags and ground mats (except on routes between Nairobi and Cape Town where ground mats are provided).

The clothes and equipment should be appropriate for the conditions you are travelling in, which will vary depending on which part of the world you're heading to. On overland trips Dragoman will provide all camping equipment apart from sleeping bags and ground mats*, so you'll need to bring those with you. Think about the climate and altitude of the areas you'll be travelling to, there's nothing worse than being cold at night so it's worth investing in a decent sleeping bag if it's likely to get cold. And remember even when it's warm during the day, it can often get cold at night, particularly in desert regions.

**Ground mats are provided on our non "in-depth" overland trips that run in South and East Africa, between Nairobi and Cape Town.*

For a general idea of what you need this list provides a guide:

- Sleeping bag - Check the expected climate en route. Nights in desert and mountain regions can be very cold in winter months
- Mattress or compressed foam
- A day pack is useful for short hikes in the countryside, wandering around cities, etc and also for keeping inside the vehicle for items used during the day
- 2 sets of comfortable travelling clothes (light, easily washable cotton clothes are best)
- 1 set of casual but smart clothes for evenings out. Women should bring a skirt that covers their knees and a scarf for visiting places of worship
- 2 pairs of shorts
- Sun hat or warm hat if trekking
- 1 pair of sunglasses
- Warm sweater/fleeces
- 1 waterproof jacket with hood
- 1 pair of comfortable walking shoes/boots (or ankle height canvas jungle boots)
- 1 pair of sandals or flip-flops
- Underwear and socks (thermals are also a good idea if you are travelling to altitude or to the desert as it can get very cold at night)
- Swimwear
- 2 small towels
- Washing kit, including a small mirror
- Clothes washing detergent, small scrubbing brush & washing line (just a length of cord)
- Head torch/flashlight with spare batteries & bulbs (only the 3 standard sizes of round 1.5v batteries are widely available en route)
- Passport photos (average of 2 per country for which visas will be applied for en route)
- Good water bottle at least 1 litre
- A pouch or money belt worn inside your clothing, or unobtrusive pocket sewn into the inside of a pair of loose fitting trousers, is a must.
- Alarm clock
- Pocket calculator (useful when exchanging money)
- Writing materials & notebook/diary
- Multi purpose knife
- Cotton sheet sleeping bag (or sheet folded and sewn up on 2 sides). It will help keep your sleeping bag clean, and can be used on its own on warm nights.
- Mosquito net - The tents supplied by us have mosquito netting and you will only need a net if you think you will sleep out under the stars a lot of the time.
- "Wet Ones" (moistened tissues) and hand gel
- Toilet paper - this can be purchased almost everywhere en-route but one roll is worth packing
- Assorted sized plastic bags - protects clothing and equipment from dust and damp

For a comprehensive kit lists take a look at the Dragoman kit list that Nomad Travel have created. Dragoman customers will receive a 10% discount on all equipment purchased either online or in store. Click to see the kit lists www.nomadtravel.co.uk/kitlist/overlanders-kit-list

Water

The sale of bottled water contributes to an enormous environmental problem around the world. In addition to the water in bottles, the production of a 1 litre plastic bottle takes 2 liters of water and 200ml of oil. A large proportion end up in limited landfill or discarded in waterways and natural environments.

Please avoid the purchase of bottled water by using the chemically sterilized water stored in the purpose built storage tank or in water jerry cans in your Overland vehicle. You are free to refill your bottle as many times a day as you like. You are helping the environment and your hip pocket!

Personal medical kit

All of our trucks have a fully stocked medical kit onboard for use in emergency situations only. Therefore in addition to this we recommend that you purchase your own personal medical kit. In the UK we have teamed up with Nomad Travel Stores and Clinics to produce the Dragoman Travel Medical Kit. It has been designed in conjunction with the truck kits and contains everything you would need for any minor accidents. For more details please visit their website:

nomadtravel.co.uk/catalog/view/dragoman-medical-kit

Electrical equipment

Your vehicle will be equipped with a 12 volt socket so to charge your iPod, MP3 player, camera, laptop and mobile phone you will need a DC 12 volt adapter - the type that can be used from a cigarette lighter in your car. Please be aware that only one piece of equipment can be charged at a time and it will not be allowed if there is a risk of running the vehicle's batteries low. Batteries may also be recharged from hotel room wall sockets and the majority of the campsites we stay at have electricity points so please bring along your normal charging adapters as well. You will need to ensure that you have the correct country adaptor for your specific charger.

The kitty

The Kitty is a group fund paid separately from the trip price at the start of your trip which covers all things that the whole group does, such as:

- Hotel accommodation and campsite fees
- Meals whilst camping (not in hotels)
- Activities listed as included (e.g. National Park entrances, excursions and local guides).

It is an amount that each passenger puts into a central fund and is monitored by the Dragoman crew. It's payable in full at the start of your trip, and in instalments at the start of each individual trip on combination trips

The kitty system is very unique to over landing as it allows us to have flexibility on the road. You can see exactly how your money is being spent and ensure that you are getting the best value by buying locally.

The kitty advertised in the brochure is an estimate at the time of printing. Local inflation and costs vary throughout the year and so we review kitties on a monthly basis. Once you book your trip it is very important that you check our website on a regular basis and just before departure for any changes to the kitty amount.

Your kitty can be paid in a mixture of US Dollar cash and local currency and most of our travellers choose to bring a cash passport with them for withdrawing local currency (you can visit www.cashpassport.com for further information on these). This is a very secure way of carrying your money whilst travelling. You treat them exactly like an ATM card and draw out local currency from an ATM to give to your leader within each country.

Travellers cheques have become increasingly difficult to change around the world with passengers and our leaders experiencing huge frustration and numerous hours spent trying to find a bank which will change travellers cheques. For this reason we no longer accept them on our trips.

Continuing your trip

Having an amazing trip and met a great group of people? Having too much fun to go home yet? If on your trip you decide you would like to continue, then why not speak to your trip leader who can advise you of the cost and availability of continuing your journey.

Contingency emergency fund

Sometimes, civil or political unrest, or reasons beyond Dragoman's control (e.g. a natural disaster), can mean that an itinerary is disrupted and we have to make a contingency plan. This may involve hiring alternate transport or even the

whole group flying over an area. Although Dragoman will help organise travel arrangements, in circumstances outside Dragoman's control you should be prepared to contribute towards the costs and therefore we ask you to bring along a 'Contingency Fund' of USD400. In almost all cases trips run smoothly and this fund is therefore never used. We also recommend that you take along an internationally recognised credit or charge card with a decent limit in case of emergencies, such as medical treatment en route, or even the need to be repatriated; though these occurrences are rare. Remember that travel insurance policies usually only refund you for expenses after you have already paid out.

Tipping

Tipping is entirely voluntary. The Dragoman crew may be travelling with you for many weeks and usually they become good friends with most members of the group. It is sometimes easy to forget that they do work hard to ensure that you do have a great trip. If you feel you would like to tip them, they certainly would appreciate it. On a number of our trips, we also use a local guide as well as our own Dragoman crew. These guides live and travel with you through their home country and it is usual to tip them when they leave. We recommend USD10 to USD15 per person.

These trip notes have been compiled to help you prepare for your journey, once you have booked. They include the full itinerary and dates, information and kit lists, meeting hotels, insurance, vaccinations, visas, and other information that will help you get ready for your trip.

Please ensure you have an up to date version of these Trip Notes

These trip notes were printed on 25/05/2013