

## SOUTHERN ETHIOPIA, GORILLAS & THE CAPE, (AAO)

Cape Town to Addis Ababa 94 days, departing 29 Nov 2021



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## TRIP OVERVIEW

- Trip Style:** Overlanding

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- Route:** Cape Town to Addis Ababa

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- Duration:** 94 days

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- Transport:** Overland expedition vehicle, 4x4, Private bus, Boat, Ferry, Mokoro (dugout canoe), Canoe

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- 75%
 25%

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- Accom:** Hotels, Hostels, Guesthouses, Campsites, Wild Camps

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### Physical Challenge:

EASY HARD

Depending on the trip, activities may include treks of 3-4 hours at altitude or across hilly terrain, multi-day treks at sea level, horseback riding, canoeing and other adventurous activities.

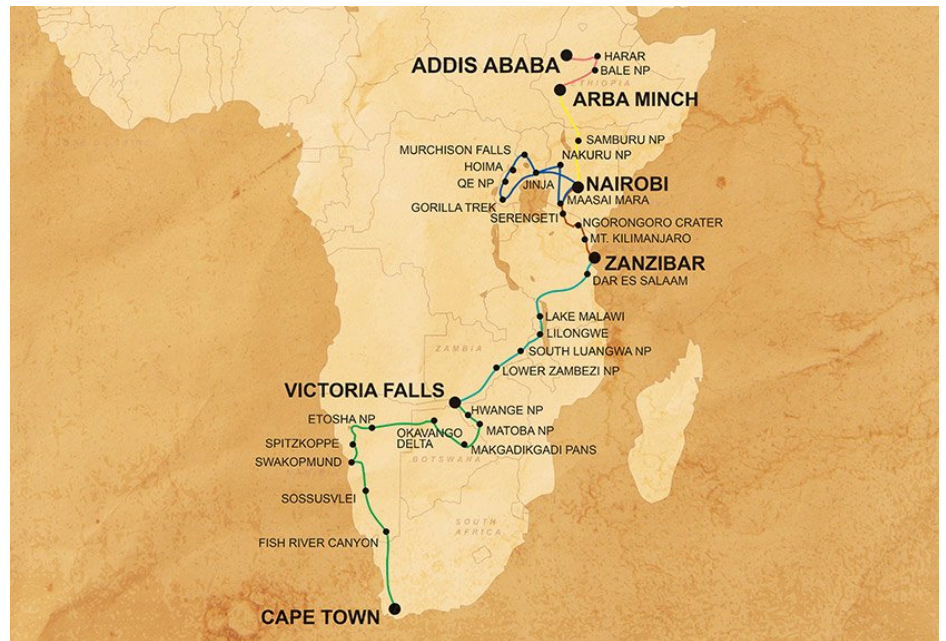
### Lifestyle Challenge:

EASY HARD

This is a fairly challenging trip; you may well be travelling at high altitudes, across deserts or through cold and windy or hot and steamy areas.

[Itineraries](#)  
[British Foreign Office Travel Advice and Warnings](#)  
[Health](#)  
[Safety & Security](#)  
[Included Activities](#)

## ROUTE MAP



## COUNTRIES VISITED

### Botswana



### OVERLANDING IN A WILDLIFE PARADISE

Botswana is one of the finest safari destinations in Africa. With 17% of the country covered by National Parks, the wildlife is as diverse as the landscapes - there are over 85 species of mammals and well over 1000 types of birds that reside in the country, with a boat trip in Chobe

### Ethiopia



### ONE OF AFRICA'S MOST DIVERSE COUNTRIES

With a friendly atmosphere, a country brimming with history, fascinating tribes and scenic National Parks, Ethiopia is a country that is as diverse as you can get in Africa.

Ethiopia is home to some of the world's most



National Park being one of the best places to observe elephants in the region.

### FROM THE KALAHARI DESERT TO THE OKAVANGO DELTA

The sand of the Kalahari Desert covers most of Botswana, and in the east there are the vast salt pans of Makgadikgadi. With very little rainfall, these areas are a perfect habitat for some Botswana's iconic wildlife. On the other end of the scale, another of Botswana's massive highlights is the Okavango Delta, where the Okvango River drains into and never reaches the ocean - this is one of the most scenic areas of the world and is packed full of wildlife. A trip in the local 'mokoros' to wild camp on the delta's islands is one of the most magical experiences in Africa!

Botswana is also home to a variety of cultures, perhaps most famously the San tribe - masters of desert survival, this incredible civilisation still thrives in their traditional lifestyle in the Kalahari.

dramatic and varied landscapes. The north contains spectacular mountains and highlands, including the breathtaking Simien Mountains National Park which contains a bewildering array of wildlife! The east contains vast lowland deserts and depressions, and the south has lush valleys and stunning lakes.

### ETHIOPIA'S UNIQUE HISTORY & COLOURFUL CULTURE

The culture and history of Ethiopia is also wonderfully unique. Ethiopia has contained a devoted Orthodox Christian culture for centuries, and this legacy is evident in the country's incredible monasteries and the rock-hewn churches of Lalibela. In the far north was the home of the ancient Axumite Empire, and Gondar contains some of the most impressive medieval structures in Africa. The south we find the Omo Valley, home to some fascinating tribal cultures such as the Hamar, Konzo and the Dorze.

Ethiopia is a country full of life and colour, and this is expressed through the fantastic variety of the music, from the rhythmic folk music of the remote tribal areas to the incredibly cool Ethio-jazz styles of Addis Ababa. Ethiopia's cuisine is very unique, including the iconic (and acquired taste) of injera, the sourdough pancakes that are ubiquitous across the nation.

A journey into Ethiopia is a journey into some of the most interesting, amazing and varied areas of Africa, and should be high on everyone's lists!

## Kenya



## Malawi



## HOME OF THE MAASAI MARA

Kenya is a country full of life and colour, of tribes and traditions, and of wildlife and game parks!

Of course it's the wildlife that draws most people to Kenya, and the country deserves every bit of its excellent reputation. The famous National Parks and Reserves have abundant animal populations, and a safari in Nakuru, Samburu or Hell's Gate is sure to find plenty of Kenya's famous wildlife roaming the breathtaking scenery. The most famous of all is the incredible [Maasai Mara](#), a spectacular savannah land where you'll commonly see lions, leopards, elephants, giraffes, buffalos, zebras, baboons, and many more!

## MORE THAN JUST WILDLIFE

Kenya does have much more than just its wildlife, and features excellent scenery, fascinating and lively people, and some of the most eclectic culture and music found in Africa.

Kenya packs a lot into a small space, and has a well-deserved reputation for being one of Africa's biggest highlights.

## Namibia



## A PERFECT INTRO TO AFRICA OVERLAND

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

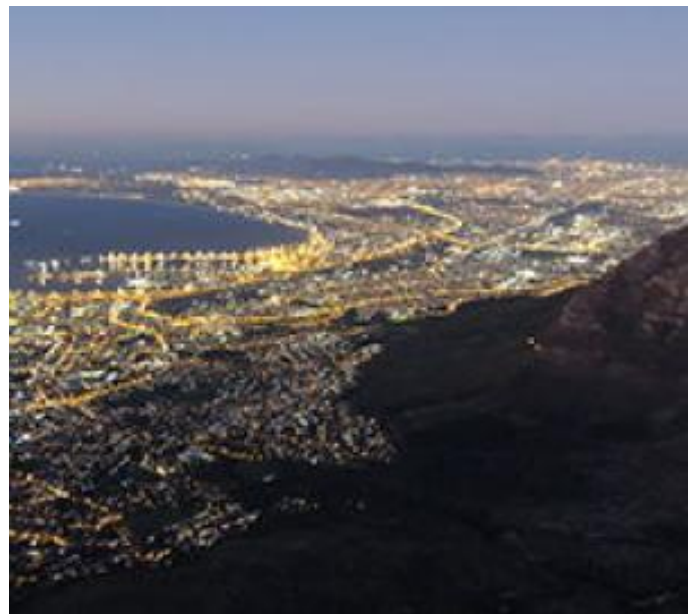
## TRAVEL OVERLAND TO THE LAKE OF STARS

Malawi is often referred to as the warm heart of Africa, as there is a friendly welcome awaiting any visitors to the country.

The main draw for visitors to Malawi is the beautiful lake that takes the country's name, also referred to as the Lake of Stars. It's possible to kayak, snorkel, scuba dive, horse ride, or just kick back and enjoy the beach. The shore of Lake Malawi is the perfect place to watch the sunsets and enjoy a sundowner.

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. Malawians want to make visitors feel welcome, and their happiness and generous nature is legendary in overlanding circles!

## South Africa



## EXPLORE S.A OVERLAND

South Africa is an unforgettable destination that you will want to travel to again and again.

The city of Cape Town is where we start and end our journeys through South Africa, and it is one of the world's most scenic cities - with its stunning coastline, the spectacular Table Mountain



A perfect place for an early trek to see the sunrise, the giant sand dunes and desolate salt pans of Sossusvlei and Sesriem are some of the most ethereal sights in Africa, and you'll be able to explore its surreal landscapes in-depth. The breathtaking views of sunset over the colossal Fish River Canyon are equally impressive! Namibia's incredible natural highlights also include the rugged mountain of [Spitzkoppe](#), the bizarre Quiver Tree Forests of Keetmanshoop, and the hauntingly-desolate Namib Desert.

### ETOSHA NATIONAL PARK & NAMIBIA WILDLIFE

Namibia also contains some incredible wildlife, and the best place in the country for animal spotting is Etosha National Park in the north. Next to a huge salt pan, the park is packed full of zebras, antelopes, lions, leopards, elephants, zebras, rhinos, and much more! On the Atlantic coast at Cape Cross we can see one of the world's largest seal colonies in their natural habitat.

Swakopmund a laid-back coastal town and home to many pulse-raising optional activities, from quad-biking through the dunes, surfing the waves in the ocean or exploring the Skeleton Coast from the air on a stunning scenic flight. The country is also home to a vast variety of fascinating cultures, including the resilient San tribes and the remarkable Himba people.

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

## Tanzania



### THE ULTIMATE SAFARI DESTINATION

Tanzania is the place for the classic East African

dominating over it, and modern cityscape, Cape Town is one of Africa's most appealing cities. There are vineyards on its doorstep, adventure activities around every corner, gardens, beaches, and museums to explore, and plenty of restaurants and cafes to relax in.

### SAMPLE WORLD FAMOUS WINES & TRADITIONAL CUISINE

South Africa has some truly delicious food to sample - from the traditional 'Potjiekos' stew to the meaty 'Boerewors' sausages and the famous dried biltong, you'll never be disappointed when trying the country's fantastic cuisine. South Africa's wine is deservedly world famous, and the region also gave the world Rooibos tea!

The vibrant South African lifestyle is perfectly reflected in the music - from folk music to jazz, hip hop and pop, and 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.

South Africa is a modern country with deep roots in traditional African culture, and is a wonderful nation to explore!

## Uganda



In the heart of East Africa lies the wonderful country of Uganda, which Winston Churchill famously called the 'Pearl of Africa'.

safari experience, and is home to some of the world's most famous and unbelievable game parks. The wide open plains of the [Serengeti](#), green after the rains, brown and burned 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".

Next to the Serengeti is the phenomenal [Ngorongoro Crater](#), a 19km-wide fertile volcanic caldera that is packed full of some of the most incredible wildlife in the world. You have a very good chance to spot leopards, lions, rhinos, hippos, buffalo, giraffes, cheetahs, elephants, and much more in this natural wonderland.

### **CHILL IN KILIMANJARO'S FOOTHILLS OR EXPLORE ZANZIBAR'S REEFS**

Tanzania is also home to the Africa's highest mountain, Mount Kilimanjaro, which towers over the savannah at a height of nearly 6000 metres.

Tanzania is also home to the fabled tropical island of [Zanzibar](#). From the perfect white beaches and dazzling blue ocean to the ancient stone-paved charm of Stone Town, you can disappear into a world of serenity. We can delve into the island's unique history, explore the old slaving forts and bustling markets of Stone Town, visit the famous spice plantations, or snorkel around the island's fantastic coral reefs.

Tanzania is a country full of incredible beauty and natural splendours, and is waiting to be discovered with Dragoman.

Uganda is brimming with National Parks. In the north we visit the remote [Murchison Falls National Park](#), home to an incredible array of wildlife including treks to see Mountain Gorillas and to wild chimpanzees, and also the location of the most powerful waterfall in the world.

### **PARADISE FOR ADVENTURE-SEEKERS**

Jinja is one of the highlights of any visit to Uganda. This is a place for the adventurer, the adrenaline junkie and for the eco-traveller! The area is beautiful and is located at the source of the Nile as it leaves Lake Victoria. It's a paradise of adventure activities from white-water rafting to quad bikes to bungee jumping!

## Zambia



### TRIPS TO VICTORIA FALLS & INCREDIBLE GAME DRIVES

Zambia is one of Southern Africa's gems, and yet it is often overlooked by travellers to the region - this wonderful small country features some incredible scenery, and friendly gentle people.

Zambia contains one of Africa's best-kept secrets - the spectacular South Luangwa National Park. Much less famous than its counterparts to the north such as the Serengeti and [Maasai Mara](#), South Luangwa draws far fewer tourists; however, it is a game park that is teeming with wildlife, and you'll commonly spot lions, zebras, elephants, giraffes, leopards, and much much more roaming the primeval landscapes.

Of course, Zambia is also famous as being one side of the mighty [Victoria Falls](#), Africa's largest waterfalls and one of the world's most impressive natural sights.

## Zimbabwe



### A MUST ON THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN OVERLANDING CIRCUIT

Zimbabwe is one of Southern Africa's most beautiful regions and home to spectacular rolling landscapes, National Parks and striking baobab trees.

A country recovering from its troubles in the early 2000s, Zimbabwe is once again becoming a gem on the Southern African overland circuit. Two of the continent's finest National Parks can be found here: [Hwange](#), famous for its mighty elephant herds and wild dog populations, and Matobo, well-known for its rhinos, ancient cave paintings and the containing the grave of the colonialist Cecil Rhodes.

### ANCIENT RUINS & MIGHTY WATERFALLS

Some of sub-Saharan Africa's earliest great civilisations emerged from what is today Zimbabwe, and this legacy can be seen in some of the greatest ancient ruins found in the continent - the phenomenal 11th-Century ruins of Great Zimbabwe near Masvingo and Khami near Bulawayo.

And of course, Zimbabwe is most famous for containing one of the world's greatest highlights, the magnificent [Victoria Falls](#)! The largest waterfalls in Africa and featuring an unbroken curtain of water nearly a kilometre long, the Victoria Falls are also known locally as Mosi-oa-Tunya, "The Smoke That Thunders".

Zimbabwe is perfect for nature lovers and for all



travellers who want to experience Africa at its purist.

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## DAILY ITINERARY

### Day 1: Cape Town ( Mon 29 Nov )

**Border Information:** If joining in Cape Town, you will most likely enter South Africa at Cape Town International Airport (IATA code: CPT).

There will be a group meeting today at 18:00. Your leader will leave a note at reception telling you where this important meeting will take place.

The rest of the day will be free to explore the city. There is the option tonight of joining the group for dinner.

Please note that many of the options listed below will only be possible for those with extra time in Cape Town before the start of your trip with us - please contact the Sales team if you would like to book pre-tour accommodation with us to have extra time exploring Cape Town.

In Cape Town we will stay in a hotel in the popular, lively and vibrant Kloof Street with a large variety of restaurants, coffee shops, cafes and bars all within walking distance.

Hotel for the night: Once In Cape Town

#### Once in Cape Town

73 Kloof Street  
Gardens 8001  
Cape Town  
South Africa  
Tel - +27 214 246 169

#### Activity

#### Approximate Cost

Head out on a full-day wine tasting tour of the famous area of Stellenbosch, just outside of Cape Town	ZAR 650
Return cable-car trip to the top of Table Mountain	ZAR 395
Excursion to the former jail on Robben Island, where Nelson Mandela was once imprisoned	ZAR 250
Abseiling, canyoning and hiking on Table Mountain and Platteklip Gorge	ZAR 895
Visit to the Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens	ZAR 65





Tour to the Cape of Good Hope and the Boulders Penguin Colony ZAR 540

Tour of Cape Town Townships and the District Six Museum ZAR 395

Visit to the colourful district of Bo Kaap Free

Explore the Dutch-built Castle of Good Hope, the oldest colonial building in South Africa ZAR 28

Freely explore the beautiful beaches of Cape Town, including those at False Bay, St. James, Clovelly or Fish Hoek Free

### About 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 its 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 its 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 its 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, the famous Robben Island where Nelson Mandela once spent time as a prisoner, and the Cape Point Nature Reserve.

### Day 2: Citrusdal ( Tue 30 Nov )

Our journey begins up the Western Cape to the wine region of Citrusdal. In the evening we will have the option for some wine tasting!

Near Citrusdal we will stay in a well equipped camp site.

Estimated Drive Time - 4-5 hours (please note that all drive times given here are approximate estimates only and are given with the best intentions - however please be aware that the drive times are heavily



dependent on traffic, road conditions, weather, police roadblocks, and many other factors - flexibility is essential on any overland trip!).

### Activity

### Approximate Cost

Sample the delicious wines from the vineyards at the base of the Cederberg Mountains

ZAR 70

### About Citrusdal:

The Western Cape of South Africa is one of the world's best regions for wine production - the temperate climate of the region and the altitude profile of the nearby Cedarberg Mountains make the area ideal for the cultivation of grapes, and a thriving wine industry has grown up in the area. Amongst the most common varieties of wine produced here are Sauvignon Blanc, Chardonnay, Blanc de Blanc, Blanc de Noir, Chenin Blanc and Pinotage.

The area of the Cedarberg Mountains is also famous as rooibos tea is endemic there - enjoyed in Southern Africa for centuries, rooibos tea has become very popular worldwide in recent decades, and is still almost exclusively grown in the Western Cape.

## Day 3: Noordoewer ( Wed 01 Dec )

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

Today we pass through Namaqualand to arrive at Noordoewer, next to the scenic banks of the Gariep (Orange) River - the natural border between Namibia and South Africa.

In Noordoewer we will stay in a well equipped campsite on the Nambian side of the river.

Estimated Drive Time - 8-9 hours.

### About Noordoewer:

Noordoewer (meaning "North Bank" in Afrikaans) is a small settlement on the banks of the Orange River, which marks the boundary between Namibia and South Africa. It is one of the hottest places in Namibia, but fortunately there is an abundance of water which is used to irrigate the fruit trees - in particular, the grape vines that are common in the area.

## Day 4: Noordoewer, Fish River Canyon ( Thu 02 Dec )

This morning if there is enough water in the river there is a chance for an optional canoe adventure on the Orange River, before we head west into the desert lands of Namibia towards the dramatic scenery of the Fish River Canyon. Here we will have a some time for exploration and taking in the beautiful sunset over the canyon.

At Fish River Canyon we will camp in a basic campsite.



Estimated Drive Time - 3-5 hours.

### Activity

### Approximate Cost

Enjoy a dip in the hot springs at Ais Ais	USD 5
Head out on a short canoe trip on the Orange River, which marks the boundary of Namibia and South Africa	NAD 280
Time to explore and take in the jaw-dropping vistas at the Fish River Canyon	Included in Kitty

### About Fish River Canyon:

Fish River Canyon is one of the great natural wonders of Africa. It is Africa's largest canyon, and one of the largest canyons in the world - it is similar in dimension and sheer magnificence to the Colca Canyon in Peru and the Grand Canyon in the USA. 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, and up to 550 m deep in places.

There are remarkable photographic opportunities here, and on our overland trips we will watch the incredible orange and pink glows of the ground at sunset before heading on to our campsite.

## Day 5: Sesriem & Soussusvlei ( Fri 03 Dec )

Today we have a full day drive to Sesriem, our base for exploring the the fabled sand dunes of Namibia. En route we will detour to the town of Keetmanshoop for food shopping.

Tonight we will stay in a well equipped campsite.

Estimated Drive Time - 10-11 hours.

### Activity

### Approximate Cost

Explore the other-worldly landscapes of the Sossusvlei and Dead Vlei salt pans	Free
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### About Sesriem & Soussusvlei:

The Namib Deserts are thought to be the oldest in the world, and are between 55-80 million years old. The most famous parts of the Namib Desert are its vast dune fields, the most spectacular of which are found near the Sesriem Canyon and in the Namib-Naukluft National Park.

The Sesriem Canyon 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 the highest sand dunes to be found anywhere 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. We get the chance to appreciate the area in all its glory on a sunrise climb to the top of Dune 45 - a star-shaped dune at the 45th kilometre marker from the Sesriem gate, standing over 170m tall above the ancient desert. This is without doubt the best way to take in the landscape, and watching a sunrise there is an ethereal and unforgettable moment!

## **Day 6: Namib Desert, Sesriem & Soussusvlei ( Sat 04 Dec )**

Today we have an early morning start to climb to the top of the famous Dune 45 for a dramatic and incredible sunrise view across a vast sea of sand. We will also have chance to explore the otherworldly landscape of the Dead Vlei.

We will then drive a short distance to the deserts at Solitaire, where we will take an included short walking tour to learn all about the ecosystem of the desert.

In Solitaire we will camp at a basic campsite.

Estimated Drive Time - 2 hours (not including the Dune 45 excursion).

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Approximate Cost</b>
Explore the vast dunefields at Sossusvlei	Included in Kitty
Explore the other-worldly landscapes of the Sossusvlei and Dead Vlei salt pans	Included in Kitty

### **About Namib Desert:**

The Namib Desert stretches for about 2,000 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 1,000 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 7 to 8: Swakopmund ( Sun 05 Dec to Mon 06 Dec )**

Today we will continue to the old German colonial town of Swakopmund, where we will have 2 nights to explore the town and enjoy some of the many optional adventure activities on offer.

In Swakopmund we will stay in Cabins near the town.

Estimated Drive Time - 4-5 hours.

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Approximate Cost</b>
Learn about Namibia's marine life at the Swakopmund Aquarium	NAD 30
Learn all about the German colonial history of the area at the Swakopmund Museum	ZAR 25
Take a scenic flight over the Forbidden Coast and the Skeleton Coast	NAD 4000
Explore the townships of Swakopmund, meeting the local Damara, Herero and Ovambo people	NAD 400
Head out for a fun morning of sandboarding on the dunes near Swakopmund	NAD 400
Explore the ocean by boat and search for dolphins, seals, and other marine life	NAD 600
Head out for a quad-biking trip into the Namib deserts near Swakopmund	NAD 550
Go in search of dolphins on a sea kayak trip off the coast of Swakopmund	NAD 800
Take a boat out for off-shore fishing in the seas near the Forbidden Coast	NAD 1200
Head out on horseback to explore the	NAD 690

beautiful area around Swakopmund

### About Swakopmund:

Surrounded by the massive dune fields of the Namib Desert on three sides and the Atlantic Ocean on the other, Swakopmund is an extraordinary remnant of German colonial culture that's found throughout 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 great place for the adrenaline junkie, and there are some excellent outdoor activities that you can get involved with - some of the most popular include sandboarding, quad-biking across the beautiful dunes or exploring the marine life on a boat trip along the coast.

## Day 9: Cape Cross, Spitzkoppe ( Tue 07 Dec )

Today we will drive east to the stunning mountains of Spitzkoppe. This remote region has breathtaking sunsets and sunrises as the colour of the landscape takes on remarkable oranges and reds.

We will also have an included visit to Cape Cross en route to Spitzkoppe, to experience the sight, sound and smell of thousands of olive-coloured seals on the shore.

In Spitzkoppe we will wild camp with very limited facilities.

Estimated Drive Time - 5-6 hours.

### Activity

### Approximate Cost

Visit the seal colony at Cape Cross

Included in Kitty

Time to explore in the stunning landscape of Spitzkoppe

Included in Kitty

### About Cape Cross:

As the Portuguese explorer Bartholemeu Diaz discovered 500 years before us, Cape Cross is a huge breeding ground for Cape fur seals - and it's now home to about 200,000 of them! It's quite an incredible sight to see the thousands of seals reeling about on the beach and interacting in their natural habitat. Sometimes you may see hyenas and jackals waiting on the edges of the colony for opportunities to steal pups while their mothers are at sea.

Please bear in mind that this is quite a raw experience, and you'll likely smell the seals well before you see them, so please don't expect idyllic scenes of seals basking on the shore!

### About Spitzkoppe:

The rugged mountain of Spitzkoppe is sometimes known as 'the Matterhorn of Namibia' - it is a staggering 700 million years old, and stands at 1,987m rising above the wild lands of the surrounding



deserts.

Although you should not attempt climbing to the top, there are some excellent hikes throughout the area - it is a truly spectacular landscape, which although in the desolate rocky deserts is nevertheless abundant in unique plant life. 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.

## **Day 10 to 11: Etosha National Park ( Wed 08 Dec to Thu 09 Dec )**

Today we head north to the stunning Etosha National Park.

Estimated Drive Time - 5-6 hours.

Etosha is one of the world's most pre-eminent wildlife areas, and we have an excellent chance to spot some of Africa's most famous animals such as elephant, lion, giraffe, zebra, leopard, oryx, impala, and rhino!

We will stay in the park for 2 days, giving us plenty of opportunity for game drives in our truck in search of the animals here.

In Etosha National Park we will stay in a mixture of the campsites of Namutoni, Halali or Okaukuejo according to availability, all of which are superbly located within the National Park, have excellent facilities and are situated next to watering holes where many animals come for a drink at night.

### **Activity**

Overland safari through Etosha National Park with excellent wildlife

### **Approximate Cost**

Included in Kitty

### **About Etosha National Park:**

Etosha National Park is one of Southern Africa's most important game reserves, home to a huge range of wildlife including many big carnivores as well as five rare or 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 National 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 very worthwhile.

## Day 12: Grootfontein ( Fri 10 Dec )

Today we will turn east and head to the area north of the town of Grootfontein. This region is home to many of the San people, and we will visit a village community project here - we will go on a fascinating 'bushwalk', learning all about the survival skills, crafts and traditional life from our local San guides! After this, we will head to our campsite for the evening.

In Grootfontein we will stay in a well equipped campsite.

Estimated Drive Time - 2-3 hours from leaving the gate of Etosha National Park.

### Activity

### Approximate Cost

Visit to the San Village project near Grootfontein

Included in Kitty

Visit the Hoba meteorite, the largest known meteorite on Earth

NAD 10

## Day 13: Shakawe ( Sat 11 Dec )

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

Today we will drive through the narrow Zambezi region of Namibia (also known as the Caprivi Strip), and cross the border into northern Botswana, arriving at our campsite near the small village of Shakawe.

Tonight we will prepare for our visit to the Okavango Delta.

In Shakawe we will stay in a well equipped campsite.

Estimated Drive Time - 9 hours.

## Day 14 to 15: Okavango Delta ( Sun 12 Dec to Mon 13 Dec )

Today we have a short drive south to the village of Sepupa, where we leave our vehicle and board boats out over to Mokoba island.

Here we will meet our 'mokoro' team, who will take us out into the stunningly beautiful area of the Okavango Delta. We'll board the mokoros (which are small dugout-style canoes) and get poled out into the reed beds of the delta. Each canoe takes two people and is poled through the meandering waterways by a local guide.

We'll be camping out on an island in the middle of a wilderness area (at a permanent campsite with facilities). Our second evening may be spent camping or on a houseboat. All food will be provided by our local hosts.

## Activity

## Approximate Cost

Head on an unforgettable 2-day/1-night guided safari deep into the Okavango Delta, including Mokoro trips and bushwalking safaris

Included in Kitty

### About 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, never reaching the ocean. 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 unspoiled 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 hippos, crocodiles, elephants, warthogs, and a myriad of different birds. Despite its abundance of wildlife, spotting game is not always easy in the Delta due to the lush plantlife that grows in the area - however, exploring the Okavango is less about searching for wildlife and more about enveloping yourself in a truly unique and magical landscape.

In the Delta, we drift along the labyrinth of waterways in a dugout canoe called a mokoro - like an African gondola, the mokoro is punted along with a long pole by a local boat driver, helping you glide serenely through the reeds and 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 16 to 17: Makgadikgadi Pans ( Tue 14 Dec to Wed 15 Dec )

Today we travel to the Makgadikgadi Pans National park.

Estimated Drive Time - 10 hours

On day 17 we will have the time for optional excursions into the Makgadikgadi Salt Pans, to see the incredible scenery and go in search of meerkats!

At the Makgadikgadi National Park we will camp at a well equipped campsite.

## Activity

## Approximate Cost

Overnight or day trip out on quads to explore the Makgadikgadi Pans

USD 195



Take a day trip by 4x4 jeep to explore the Nxai Xini Salt Pan	USD 120
Visit and explore a local cattlepost village	USD 80
Take a guided walk around the immense baobab trees found in the area	USD 35

**About Makgadikgadi Pans:**

One of the world's largest salt pans, the colossal Makgadikgadi Pan lies in northern Botswana surrounded by the vast Kalahari Desert. The pans are hauntingly beautiful and desolate, and are dotted with the iconic baobab trees that the region is famous for. The area is also home to many curious meerkats, which if we are lucky will be able to spot scurrying around!

**Day 18: Bulawayo ( Thu 16 Dec )**

**Border Information:** Exit Botswana at Ramokgwebana, enter Zimbabwe at Plumtree.

Today we have a long drive day across the border into Zimbabwe and the city of Bulawayo.

In Bulawayo we will stay in a campground with shared facilities, where some upgrades are available.

Estimated Drive Time - 7 hours.

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Approximate Cost</b>
Learn all about the eco-systems of Southern Africa at Bulawayo's excellent Natural History Museum	USD 10
Visit the fascinating Railway Museum in Bulawayo	USD 1
Visit Bulawayo's National Art Gallery	USD 2
Visit the animal rescue sanctuary at Chipangali	USD 10
Explore the ancient ruined capital of the Butua civilisation at Khami	USD 10

**About Bulawayo:**

Known as the 'City of Kings', Bulawayo is Zimbabwe's second largest city and has a very interesting historical past. It was founded by the Lobengula, the king of the Ndebele people and the son of Mzilikazi kaMatshobana, the first Ndebele king to settle in modern-day Zimbabwe in the 1840s after their great trek from Zululand. In 1893,

the settlement was invaded by the forces of the British South Africa Company, and turned into a colonial settlement under the supervision of the infamous British imperialist Cecil Rhodes. Bulawayo was regarded as the industrial centre of Zimbabwe in the 20th Century, and the city served as the hub to the country's rail network due to its strategic position near Botswana and South Africa.

These days, Bulawayo is most famous as the gateway to the nearby Matobo National Park.

## **Day 19: Bulawayo, Matobo National Park ( Fri 17 Dec )**

Today we will have an included day trip 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, and also have the chance to visit the grave of Cecil Rhodes and learn all about Zimbabwe's past.

### **Activity**

### **Approximate Cost**

Guided walking safari in search of White Rhino in Matobo National Park

Included in Kitty

Learn all about the colonial history of Southern Africa at a visit to the grave of Cecil Rhodes

Included in Kitty

### **About Matobo National Park:**

Matobo National Park is one of Zimbabwe's most fascinating safari destinations. The park is a haven for African wildlife and is excellent for game viewing, and it especially famous as being home to a large population of black and white rhinoceros - we will be able to track the rhinos on foot with our local guide, whose knowledge and connections with the local Ndebele tribes is unrivalled.

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. There are some fascinating ancient cave paintings made by various San people adorning some of the cave shelters within the National Park, which we will also visit on our excursion here.

Matobo also contains the site of the grave of Cecil Rhodes, the infamous and controversial British colonialist, businessman and imperialist, Cecil Rhodes - here we will pay a visit to admire the stunning views over the plains and find out about some of this history from our local guide.

## **Day 20: Hwange National Park ( Sat 18 Dec )**

After breakfast we head towards Hwange National Park, stopping en route to visit the Painted Dog Conservation Group for an insight into the plight of the African Wild Dog. We will take an included afternoon game drive in local safari trucks through Hwange National Park.

In Hwange National Park we will camp inside the park at their campsite near the entrance gates.

Estimated Drive Time - 6-7 hours.

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Approximate Cost</b>
Jeep safari in Hwange National Park	Included in Kitty
Visit to the Painted Dog Conservation project near Hwange	Included in Kitty

### **About Hwange National Park:**

Hwange National Park is Zimbabwe's largest nature reserve, and contains a wonderful array of landscapes, including grasslands, forests, wetlands, sections of the arid Kalahari, and lava flows. The area designated as the hunting grounds for the Ndebele warrior-king Mzilikazi in the early 19th Century, and was set aside as a protected nature area in 1928.

Today, Hwange boasts a tremendous population of wildlife, with over 100 species of mammals and nearly 400 bird species. The elephants of Hwange are world famous, and the National Park's elephant population is one of the largest in Africa. We will explore the park in open 4x4 vehicles and stay within the National Park at one of the designated camp grounds.

## **Day 21: Hwange National Park, Kasane ( Sun 19 Dec )**

This morning we will head out on an early morning game drive within Hwange National Park.

**Border Information:** exit Zimbabwe at Kazangula, enter Botswana at Kazangula.

After our Game Drive in Hwange we head across the border into Botswana and the town of Kasane, the gateway to the beautiful Chobe National Park.

In Kasane we will stay in a well equipped campsite in the grounds of a safari lodge.

Estimated Drive Time - 4 hours.

### **About 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 22: Chobe National Park, Victoria Falls ( Mon 20 Dec )

In the morning we will visit the park by taking an included boat trip down the Chobe river - the boat trip provides a fantastic opportunity to take some stunning wildlife photographs, getting extremely close to the animals without disturbing them.

In the afternoon we will drive back into Zimbabwe and to our well equipped camp site in Victoria Falls.

### About 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 is 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. Birdlife 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. In many ways being on the river itself on a boat cruise 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.

### About Victoria Falls:

The lively town of Victoria Falls 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 one of Africa's most spectacular and recognisable icons! They comprise of an enormous curtain of water about a mile wide, falling 108m into a narrow chasm below.

In the wet season, the falls create an impressive raging torrent and creates a spray that can rise an incredible 400m and can be seen from miles away. The locals call the falls "Mosi oa Tunya", which means "the smoke that thunders" - a fantastic 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. Whichever season you choose, you are sure to be blown away by this awe-inspiring spectacle!

As well as enjoying the falls, there are 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 even bungee-jumping from the bridge across one of the cataracts! Please be aware that many activities may need to be booked in advance to avoid them being booked up (especially if you are starting



your trip in Victoria Falls) - please see the website of our approved activity supplier in Victoria Falls, Adventure Zone, to see what options they have available and to book any that you wish to do before your trip starts - <http://www.adventurezonevicfalls.com/>

*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 23: Victoria Falls ( Tue 21 Dec )**

This afternoon we will have an included visit to the main viewpoints over the awe-inspiring Victoria Falls.

Our well equipped campground is centrally located on the Zambezi River only 4 kilometres from the waterfalls, the perfect place to use as a base for the vast array of adventure activities on offer in the area. Please note that no meals are included in Victoria Falls.

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Approximate Cost</b>
Visit to the incredible Victoria Falls	Included in Kitty
White water rafting on the Zambezi	USD 150
Bungee jump (111m) from the bridge over the Second Gorge of the Victoria Falls	USD 135
See the incredible Victoria Falls from the air with a helicopter flight over the waterfalls	USD 152
Take a relaxing sunset cruise on the Zambezi	USD 55
Horse riding along the scenic banks of the Zambezi	USD 95
Enjoy a relaxing canoeing trip on the River Zambezi	USD 110
Take a guided walk to a local Matabele village	USD 55

## **Day 24: Victoria Falls ( Wed 22 Dec )**

**Border Information:** Welcome to Victoria Falls and the largest waterfalls in Africa! If joining the trip in Victoria Falls, you will most likely enter Zimbabwe at Victoria Falls Airport (IATA code: VFA).

There will be a group meeting at 10:00am at the Victoria Falls Rest Camp. Your leader will leave a note on the reception with the details of this important meeting - when you arrive you will easily spot the truck as well (usually to the right-hand-side of the reception), where you'll be able to meet one of our crew.

This afternoon we will have an included visit to the main viewpoints over the awe-inspiring Victoria Falls.

If you would like to take advantage of the vast array of adventure activities on offer in the area, we advise that you arrive a day earlier than the meeting to give yourself enough time to do so. Please note that no meals are included in Victoria Falls.

Please note that many of the options listed below will only be possible for those with extra time in Victoria Falls before the start of your trip with us - please contact the Sales team if you would like to book pre-tour accommodation with us to have extra time exploring Victoria Falls.

In Victoria Falls we will stay at a well equipped campsite - accommodation from the very first day will be in tents, but there are often cabins, set-tents and other upgrades available here - please talk to your leader at the initial meeting to check availability.

Hotel for the night: Victoria Falls Rest Camp

**Victoria Falls Rest Camp**

Park Way

Victoria Falls

Zimbabwe

Tel - +27 216 836 444

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Approximate Cost</b>
Visit to the incredible Victoria Falls	Included in Kitty
Bungee jump (111m) from the bridge over the Second Gorge of the Victoria Falls	USD 135
White water rafting on the Zambezi	USD 150
Horse riding along the scenic banks of the Zambezi	USD 95
Take a relaxing sunset cruise on the Zambezi	USD 55
Enjoy a relaxing canoeing trip on the River Zambezi	USD 110
Take a guided walk to a local Matabele village	USD 55

## Day 25: Livingstone ( Thu 23 Dec )

**Border information:** Exit Zimbabwe at Victoria Falls, enter Zambia at Victoria Falls.

Today we start our journey with a short drive over the border into Zambia! We will head to the town of Livingstone, on the Zambian side of the Victoria Falls.

In Livingstone we will stay in a well equipped campsite.

Estimated Drive Time - 1-2 hours (please note that all drive times given here are the approximate number of hours that the truck will be in motion only, and does not include any time taken for coffee or lunch stops, border crossings, photo stops, activities en route, comfort breaks, shopping stops, toilet stops, etc. The times given are approximate estimates only and whilst given with the best of intentions, the drive times are heavily dependent on traffic, road conditions, weather, police roadblocks, and many other factors - flexibility is essential on any overland trip!).

### Activity

### Approximate Cost

See the incredible Victoria Falls from the Zambian side

USD 20

### About Livingstone:

The town of Livingstone was an old colonial settlement on the Zambian side of the mighty Victoria Falls. It is named after the famous Scottish explorer David Livingstone, who was the first European to explore the area. Now one of Zambia's tourism hotspots, it offers a different perspective of the incredible waterfalls than the Zimbabwean viewpoints.

## Day 26: Lower Zambezi Area ( Fri 24 Dec )

Today we have a full day drive across southern Zambia to our well equipped campsite on the banks of the Lower Zambezi.

Tonight we will meet our guides who will take us on our two-day canoeing expedition on the Lower Zambezi on the following day - they will give us a full briefing about the canoeing trip when we arrive.

Estimated Drive Time - 9-10 hours.

### About Lower Zambezi Area:

The Zambezi Valley has been known outside of Africa for thousands of years. Legends suggest that the ancient kingdoms of Hiram, Solomon and Sheba were enriched by the gold and ivory of Ophir, supposedly part of present day Zimbabwe, and the Zambezi was one of the gateways to the ancient treasure trove! More recent history records some of the explorations of hunters, missionaries and slave traders along this part of the Zambezi River.

Nowadays this part of the valley holds very different treasures for modern adventurers. Beyond Kariba Gorge, the Zambezi River flows through a wide and game-rich floodplain hemmed in by towering

escarpments in both Zimbabwe and Zambia. The shoreline in Zambia has private conservation areas, game management areas and the relatively unexplored Lower Zambezi National Park. This region is heavily populated by hippos and crocodiles - it's also renowned as a birdwatcher's paradise with over 300 species having been recorded.

One of the best activities available on the lower Zambezi is to embark on a wonderful and serene canoe safari - paddling ourselves down the calm waters of the river, we can get a unique perspective on the region's amazing wildlife by viewing them from the water. We will also wild camp on the banks of the river on our multi-day trip, making it a very raw and memorable experience surrounded by nature!

### **Day 27 to 28: Lower Zambezi Area ( Sat 25 Dec to Sun 26 Dec )**

Today we head out on our 2-day/2-night canoeing trip on the Lower Zambezi river.

This is a fully participatory expedition - everyone will pair up, go out in 2-person canoes and paddle themselves, following the lead boat! Everyone also gets involved in setting up the camps and cooking. All of our gear will be carried in a supply canoe, and wild camps are erected on islands in the river along the way.

This is a fantastic way to see the river, the scenery and some of the wildlife in the area!

#### **Activity**

#### **Approximate Cost**

2 night canoe wildlife safari in the Lower Zambezi area

Included in Kitty

### **Day 29: Luangwa River ( Mon 27 Dec )**

After breakfast, we have an early morning transfer from our second island wild camp on a fast barge back to the truck, and then continue our journey to the bridge over the River Luangwa.

At the Luangwa River we will stay in a well equipped campsite.

Estimated Drive Time - 8-9 hours.

### **Day 30 to 31: South Luangwa National Park ( Tue 28 Dec to Wed 29 Dec )**

Today our journey continues to the stunning South Luangwa National Park, where we will stay for 2 nights.

If we make good enough time on the drive to the campsite, then there may be opportunity for an optional extra game drive upon arrival tonight.



Estimated Drive Time - 9-10 hours.

On the following day we will have an included early morning game drive and an included evening game drive, both in open-sided safari vehicles.

South Luangwa National Park is a hidden gem on the safari circuit; it is rarely visited due to its remote setting, but has some incredible populations of wildlife and is one of the only parks in Southern Africa that is open for night driving with spotlights when many of the big game is at its most active.

In South Luangwa National Park we will stay in a well-equipped campsite.

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Approximate Cost</b>
Kawaza village visit, South Luangwa National Park	Included in Kitty
Optional extra evening game drive (if time allows)	ZMW 220
Walking safaris in South Luangwa National Park	USD 10

#### **About South Luangwa National Park:**

For scenery and variety of animals, South Luangwa National Park in Zambia is one of Africa's hidden gems and best-kept secrets! South Luangwa is a vast woodland savannah which is home to over 60 animal species and over 400 types of birds, and is teeming with hippos and crocodiles. The plains beside the river are populated with lions, elephants, buffaloes, many kinds of bucks, kudus, Thompson's gazelles and Red lechwes, and you're also likely to see many Thornicroft giraffes (a sub-species of giraffe unique to the South Luangwa region). The birds of the region are incredibly colourful, such as the multi-coloured Lilac-breasted roller and the red Carmine bee-eater.

#### **Day 32: Lilongwe ( Thu 30 Dec )**

**Border information:** Exit Zambia at Mchinji, enter Malawi at Mchinji.

Today we will cross the border into Malawi and head to the capital Lilongwe. Hopefully we will arrive by mid-afternoon so that we have the chance to explore the city, its markets and its shops.

In Lilongwe we will camp in a well-equipped campsite.

Estimated Drive Time - 6-7 hours.

#### **Day 33 to 34: Kande ( Fri 31 Dec to Sat 01 Jan )**

Today we will travel from Lilongwe to Kande beach on the western shore of Lake Malawi.

Estimated Drive Time - 6-7 hours.

On the following day we will have a free day on Kande beach to relax or to get involved in some of the optional activities available here - there are watersports on the lake, horse riding through the forests and on the beaches, and village walks to see a little bit of the life of the local Tonga people.

In Kande we will stay in a well-equipped campsite.

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Approximate Cost</b>
Guided walk and visit to a local Tonga village	USD 10
Horse Riding excursions in the forests and beaches near Lake Malawi	USD 90
Snorkelling excursion to Lake Malawi	USD 15
Canoe hire to explore Lake Malawi from the water	USD 10

#### **About Kande:**

Malawi is dominated by the stunning Lake Malawi, the large inland lake that covers almost a fifth of the country's area. 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 Mphoza. 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 gear or canoes, and the clear waters of the lake are perfect to explore. As well as chilling on the beach and participating in the many optional activities on offer, make sure you take the opportunity to meet some of the friendly local Malawians!

### **Day 35: Chitimba ( Sun 02 Jan )**

Today we continue north along the coast of Lake Malawi to Chitimba, an equally beautiful campsite on the shore of the lake. If we arrive in good time, we may have to chance for a short village walk or a woodcarving lesson!

In Chitimba we will stay in a campsite with good facilities.

Estimated Drive Time - 6-7 hours.

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Approximate Cost</b>
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Woodcarving lessons with the locals in Chitimba USD 10

Village walk around Chitimba USD 10

#### **About Chitimba:**

Chitimba is a small village on the shores of Lake Malawi - with long, white beaches and clear waters, it's a great place to relax and explore.

### **Day 36: Iringa ( Mon 03 Jan )**

**Border Information:** Exit Malawi at Songwe, enter Tanzania at Songwe.

Today is a long travel day as we enter Tanzania and drive through its southern highlands.

We will stay in a well-equipped campsite on a working ranch 52kms south of the town of Iringa.

Estimated Drive Time - 11-12 hours.

### **Day 37: Mikumi, Iringa ( Tue 04 Jan )**

Today we will continue our journey north to our well equipped campsite in the small village of Mikumi.

Estimated Drive Time - 6-8 hours.

#### **About 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, the scenery along the road is wonderful and we often see a decent selection of wildlife here as we pass by along the way.

### **Day 38: Zanzibar ( Wed 05 Jan )**

**Border Information:** If joining at Zanzibar, you will most likely enter Tanzania from Zanzibar Abeid Amani Karume International Airport (IATA code: ZNZ).

There will be an informal meet-and-greet and orientation of Stone Town with our local Zanzibar guide at 6:00pm - please meet at the reception of the joining hotel at this time if you wish to take part in this orientation. Please note that you will not usually meet your regular crew tonight, as they will be arriving in Dar es Salaam this evening and will travel to Zanzibar with members of their previous group tomorrow.

Please note that many of the options listed below will only be possible for those with extra time in Zanzibar before the start of your trip with us - please contact the Sales team if you would like to book pre-tour accommodation with us to have extra time exploring Zanzibar.

In Stone Town we will stay in a good local hotel.

*Please note that the first 4 days of this trip overlap with our "YDF - Victoria Falls to Zanzibar" trip, so some of the group that come to Zanzibar will leave before we take the ferry to Dar es Salaam. This is because Zanzibar is part of both trips, so it means customers going all the way through do not follow our Zanzibar itinerary twice!*

Hotel for the night: Safari Inn

**Safari Lodge**

Malindi Street

Stone Town

Zanzibar

Tanzania

Tel - +255 242 236 523

**Activity**

**Approximate Cost**

Explore the beautiful and historic streets of Zanzibar's Stone Town

Free

**About Zanzibar:**

The exotic spice island of Zanzibar is filled with idyllic beaches, winding cobblestone alleyways and fragrant bazaars, and its 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 David Livingstone.

Stone Town is the old port town of Zanzibar and is one of the most atmospheric old towns in Africa - 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 which we will visit on our trips. This tour will also include a local meal and a tour around the main sites of Stone Town to learn about the history of its former slave market. In the spice plantations 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 major highlight of Zanzibar is of course its world-famous beaches. The northern beaches boast beautiful white sand and sparkling blue seas - displaying the Indian Ocean at its very best. Try snorkeling or diving, eat sumptuous seafood, or simply relax in a hammock underneath a coconut tree with a good book - Zanzibar is a paradise in every sense of the word!

## Day 39: Zanzibar ( Thu 06 Jan )

Today will be a free day to explore Stone Town, the atmospheric old town on the exotic and beautiful island of Zanzibar!

Your crew will arrive on Zanzibar this afternoon, and there will be an important meeting at 6:00pm at the joining hotel - there will then be the option going for sunset drinks at Africa House and heading out to the night markets for a local dinner.

Activity	Approximate Cost
Explore the beautiful and historic streets of Zanzibar's Stone Town	Free
Guided tour of Spice Plantations and local lunch	Included in Kitty

## Day 40 to 41: Zanzibar ( Fri 07 Jan to Sat 08 Jan )

On our second day on Zanzibar we will join our local guide for a very interesting and informative tour around the sights of Stone Town and learn about the history of the island. We will then head away from town and take in a tour of a spice plantation, enjoy a local lunch with our guide, then head to Nungwi beach at the very north of the island. Nungwi is the Indian Ocean at its best - bright white sand, sparkling blue sea outstanding seafood and a fantastic chilled atmosphere.

On our third day on Zanzibar, we will have free time to enjoy Nungwi beach and relax, or to try snorkeling, diving, or other beach activities, or maybe go further afield looking for Red Colobus monkeys in the Jozani Forest.

In Nungwi we will spend both nights in a good hotel right on the shore of the ocean.

Activity	Approximate Cost
Snorkelling day trip, Zanzibar	USD 40
Dhow trip, Zanzibar	USD 20
Explore the beautiful 'Prison' Island near Zanzibar	USD 30
Scuba diving in the incredible waters of the Indian Ocean near Zanzibar (per dive)	USD 55
Walk through the Jozani Forest in search of the very rare Red Colobus monkeys	USD 40



## Day 42: Dar Es Salaam ( Sun 09 Jan )

Today we will return to Stone Town and then take a ferry from Zanzibar to Dar es Salaam, before travelling on the local commuter barge from the city centre to the suburb of Kigamboni. The ferry will take about 2 hours and 30 minutes. The rest of the afternoon will be free to relax at the campsite.

In Dar es Salaam we stay at a beautiful and well-equipped beach camp on the southern side of the bay across from the city.

Activity	Approximate Cost
Fishing Trips (per boat), Dar Es Salaam	USD 220
Sunset kayak trip to explore the mangroves near Dar es Salaam	USD 15
Visit to the Wonder Workshop, a craft workshop providing employment and training to local disabled people	Free
Ferry back from Zanzibar to Dar Es Salaam	Included in Kitty
Learn all about Tanzania's history at the National Museum and the House of Culture	TZS 6500

### About Dar Es Salaam:

Dar es Salaam (meaning 'Haven of Peace' in Arabic) is Tanzania's largest city and was the country's capital until 1974 when the capital was moved to the central town of Dodoma. The city is the most populous in East Africa and one of the fastest growing cities in the world - it is Tanzania's financial centre and the most prominent city in the country's arts, fashion, media, music, film and television.

Dar es Salaam 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.

On our trips we stay on the beaches of the southern district of Kigamboni - this is a beautiful and serene part of Dar es Salaam, and you'll be forgiven for not realising you're so close to such a big metropolis!

## Day 43: Lushoto ( Mon 10 Jan )

Today we join our overland truck and set off early to beat the morning traffic in Dar es Salaam. We have a full day's drive to Lushoto, where we have a nightstop camping in the grounds of a beautiful colonial hotel at the base of Mount Kilimanjaro.

In Lushoto we will camp in the grounds of a hotel.

Estimated Drive Time - 7-8 hours (please note that all drive times given here are the approximate number of hours that the truck will be in motion only, and does not include any time taken for coffee or lunch stops, border crossings, photo stops, activities en route, comfort breaks, shopping stops, toilet stops, etc. The times given are approximate estimates only and whilst given with the best of intentions, the drive times are heavily dependent on traffic, road conditions, weather, police roadblocks, and many other factors - flexibility is essential on any overland trip!).

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Approximate Cost</b>
Half day trek out to the stunning Irente view point and community visit to the Irente villages	USD 25

#### **About Lushoto:**

Lushoto was originally a German colonial settlement set in the beautiful Usambara Mountains. The stunning mountain range is over 90kms long and, unusually for East African mountain ranges, is covered in tropical forest. There are many stunning walks and viewpoints in the area out over the mountains and the Maasai Steppe beyond.

### **Day 44: Arusha, Marangu ( Tue 11 Jan )**

After breakfast we head west to the town of Arusha, where we will stop for food shopping in preparation for our excursion to the Serengeti National Park. On the drive to Arusha we will go past the whole length of Mount Kilimanjaro where we'll hope for clear skies and fantastic views from the road.

We will then head to our campsite on the outskirts of Arusha. On arrival we should have time to go on an optional walk to a nearby Maasai village, or visit a reptile house and snake-bite clinic that are run by the campsite. We will also prepare and re-pack for the Serengeti excursion starting the following day.

In Arusha we will stay in a well equipped campsite.

Estimated Drive Time - 6-7 hours.

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Approximate Cost</b>
Visit to an African snake park	Free
Take a short walk to a nearby Maasai village to learn all about the life and culture of the Maasai people	USD 7

#### **About Arusha:**

On our trips we make a short stop in the northern Tanzanian town of Arusha. Arusha is the largest city in northern Tanzania, 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, and surrounding it are many coffee, wheat and maize estates tended by the Arusha and Meru people.

Arusha is the centre of Tanzania's safari business and is the gateway for safaris to the Serengeti and Ngorongoro Crater National Parks.

#### **About Marangu:**

The small village of Marangu is located on the lower slopes of Mount Kilimanjaro, and is the starting point for the most popular route to climb to the mountain's summit. Mount Kilimanjaro is Africa's highest mountain at 5,895m tall, and the highest free-standing mountain in the world - it is absolutely stunning to see from its base and is a magnificent backdrop to the surrounding grasslands on a clear day!

### **Day 45: Tarangire National Park ( Wed 12 Jan )**

Today we will be met by our fleet of 6-person 4x4 jeeps - we will load the jeeps with our camping and personal gear, and then head out for our 4-day excursion to the Tarangire National Park, Serengeti and Ngorongoro Crater, leaving our truck behind.

We will also be leaving our large bags behind (where they will be stored in a secure location), and advise you to bring along a smaller daypack for your personal gear for this trip that will need to be packed soon after the group meeting before we set off. You should pack clothing for 4 days (including a warm jumper or fleece and long trousers), a waterproof jacket, toiletries (including sun screen and insect repellent), your camera and charger, a small towel, a head torch, a water bottle, books and personal snacks, etc.

We will have a safety talk with our safari guides and then on to a day drive within Tarangire National Park followed by a treetop walkway in the afternoon. You should have many opportunities for photographs so remember your cameras!

Once we make it into our camp site we will have our evening meal before the opportunity for a night game drive to Lake Manyara.

#### **About Tarangire National Park:**

Tarangire National Park is named after the river which winds its way through this park. Surrounded by the Serengeti and the Ngorongoro Crater this park is sometimes unfairly forgotten. Tarangire is Tanzania's sixth largest National Park and is most famous for its herds of elephants which migrate in large numbers, sometimes up to 3000! It also has baobab trees rising into the heavens and vistas that will make you know you are having a true safari experience.

## Day 46 to 47: Ngorongoro Crater, Serengeti National Park, Lake Manyara National Park ( Thu 13 Jan to Fri 14 Jan )

This morning we will make our way down into the plains of the Serengeti. We will take an evening game drive around the savanna before heading to our campsite - the area is one of the world's premier spots for wildlife viewing and we hope to be able to find elephants, lions, leopards, giraffe and other big game during our time here!

Tonight we will stay at a campsite within the Serengeti National Park. The camp where we stay is very basic (with showers and flush toilets, but no other facilities) but is located right in the middle of the plains, surrounded by animals and their nocturnal noises! Your leader will outline the basic safety rules to be followed when camping in an unfenced location where wild animals are present.

The next morning we will get up very early and we set off in our jeeps for an early morning game drive in the heart of the Serengeti plains. The early morning is the best time of day for wildlife viewing, as many of the animals are at their most active while it is still cool.

There is an option this morning to take a hot air balloon flight over the Serengeti instead of the game drive - demand is high for this activity, so this must be pre-booked at the time that you booked your trip with us.

We will return to our campsite for lunch, and then aim to exit the Serengeti early afternoon. We will head back through the conservation area to our next campsite, on the rim of the Ngorongoro Crater, where we will arrive in the early evening.

Again, the campsite tonight is very basic and unfenced. It can often be quite cold on the crater rim so it is recommended that you take some warm clothes for this night.

### Activity

### Approximate Cost

Hot Air Balloon ride in the Serengeti (this must be pre booked through your sales consultant)

USD 650

Head on an unforgettable safari in 4x4s into the Serengeti, Tarangire and Ngorongoro Crater National Reserves - three of the world's most incredible areas for wildlife spotting

Included in Kitty

### About Ngorongoro Crater:

The Ngorongoro Crater is a huge caldera - a volcano which collapsed in an immense explosion. It measures 19kms in diameter and 265km<sup>2</sup> in area. The stunning crater is one of the most spectacular sights in Africa, and is absolutely packed with wildlife.

On our trips we make the most of our safari in the crater, spending between four and five hours exploring the area at the base of the

crater. There is an excellent chance of spotting many of the 'Big Five' (lions, buffaloes, rhinos, elephants and leopards), not to mention many other species.

#### **About 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 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 from during the day. The Serengeti plains usually live up to every-one's expectations - the classic East African scenery of rolling grasslands dotted with Acacia trees and teeming with lions, leopards, elephants, giraffes, buffaloes, gazelles, impalas, cheetahs, warthogs, hyenas, vultures, hippos, zebras, wildebeest, and much more!

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. Please note that this must be pre-booked in advance through the Dragoman Sales team.

#### **About Lake Manyara National Park:**

As the name suggests a lake makes up a large proportion of Lake Manyara National Park. It is a soda ash lake which means it is extremely alkaline and harbours very unique biodiversity. The park is famous for the unusual tree climbing lions although its scenic beauty is the main draw. It has 11 types of ecosystems and a very high density of mammals such as zebra and wildebeest.

### **Day 48: Ngorongoro Crater, Arusha ( Sat 15 Jan )**

This morning we will have another early start to descend into the world-famous Ngorongoro Crater for a morning game drive. Again, the Ngorongoro Crater is an outstanding area for wildlife spotting, often described as a 'natural wildlife enclosure'. This is the best chance on the excursion to spot black rhinos as well as a myriad of other big game.

We will spend as long as our entry tickets allow in the Ngorongoro Crater before departing, which will usually give us about 3-4 hours of game driving. We will then be dropped off at our campsite back in Arusha, where we are re-united with our truck.

We will have a well-deserved free afternoon to relax at our excellent campsite or to do some of the optional activities on offer here.

### **Day 49: Amboseli National Park ( Sun 16 Jan )**

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



Today we will head to Amboseli National Park. Here you can experience the iconic view of the African plain with Mount Kilimanjaro standing majestically in the background. We will drive through the park in our truck keeping a keen eye out for all of the animals we will pass.

Estimated Drive Time - 4-5 hours.

#### **About Amboseli National Park:**

Amboseli National Park is one of Kenya's smallest National Parks and is close to the border of Tanzania. It has the tallest free standing mountain in the world, Kilimanjaro, towering over it. This makes for some incredible photographic opportunities. Amboseli (meaning 'white dust' in Swahili) is renowned for its large herds of big-tusked elephants, dusty plains and swampland.

### **Day 50: Nairobi ( Mon 17 Jan )**

Welcome to Nairobi, the final stop on our trip!

You will have time to explore Nairobi fully - possible activities include visiting the Karen Blixen Museum, the National Museum and the Langata Giraffe Centre. Your tour leader will let you know some of our recommendations however you are more than welcome to move through the city independently for the day!

#### **About 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 giraffes and help to feed them at the Langata Giraffe Centre.

### **Day 51: Nairobi ( Tue 18 Jan )**

**Border Information:** If joining the trip in Nairobi, you will most likely enter Kenya at Nairobi Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (IATA code: NBO).

Welcome to Kenya! There will be a group meeting at the joining hotel at 6:00pm. Please do not be alarmed if there is no welcome note, as this will often be a travelling day for the crew who will be joining you.

Please note that many of the options listed below will only be possible for those with extra time in Nairobi before the start of your trip with us - please contact the Sales team if you would like to book pre-tour accommodation with us to have extra time exploring Nairobi.

Hotel for the night: Wildebeest Eco Camp

#### **Wildebeest Eco Camp**

151 Mokoyeti Road West

Karen

Nairobi

Kenya

+254 7347 70733

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Approximate Cost</b>
NNP Animal orphanage & Safari walk, Nairobi	KES 500
Explore the museum at the site of the former home of Karen Blixen, the author of 'Out of Africa'	KES 1200
Visit the Langata Giraffe Centre in Nairobi	KES 1000
Learn all about the different tribal groups of Kenya at the Bomas of Kenya cultural centre in Nairobi	USD 40
Discover some of Kenya's ancient hominids at the National Museum in Nairobi	KES 1200

## **Day 52: Kericho ( Wed 19 Jan )**

This morning we will drive on to Kericho, throughout this drive you will have sights of the world famous tea plantations in the area.

In Kericho we will stay at a well equipped campsite.

Estimated Drive Time - 5-6 hours.

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Approximate Cost</b>
Tour of a tea plantation in Kericho	KES 200

### **About Kericho:**

Kericho is one of the larger towns in the western highlands of Kenya. Its location in the highlands of the Rift Valley next to the Mau forest gives it a warm and temperate climate, that makes it perfect for agriculture and specifically the cultivation of tea.

## **Day 53 to 54: Jinja ( Thu 20 Jan to Fri 21 Jan )**

**Border Information:** Exit Kenya at Busia, enter Uganda at Busia.

Today we have a full day's drive across the border into Uganda as we travel to Jinja, the adventure capital of East Africa!

Estimated Drive Time - 9-10 hours.

On the following day we will have a free day to get involved in the many optional adventure activities available here, such as white water rafting, bungee jumping and boat trips on the White Nile!

In Jinja we will stay at a well equipped campsite.

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Approximate Cost</b>
Full Day rafting, Jinja	USD 125
Go bungee jumping above the Nile at our campsite in Jinja	USD 115
Go on a boat trip to discover the source of the Nile where the river outflows from Lake Victoria	USD 15
Adventure activity combo day of rafting, jet boating and bungee jumping	USD 250
2 nights in Jinja camping next to the swirling currents of the mighty White Nile	USD 75
Head out for a full day of quad biking at the Bujagali Falls near Jinja	USD 160
Head out horse riding along the banks of the White Nile	USD 75

### **About Jinja:**

Jinja is one of the highlights of any visit to Uganda. This is a place for the adventurer, the adrenaline junkie and the eco-conscious traveller. The area is beautiful and is located at the source of the White Nile as it leaves Lake Victoria. The most popular activity here is the spectacular and hair-raising white-water rafting trip down the Nile. Our base in Jinja is perched spectacularly on a cliff-top 30 metres above the swirling currents of the river!

### **Day 55: Nakitoma ( Sat 22 Jan )**

Today we continue our journey and head north to the Ziwa Rhino Sanctuary close to the town of Nakitoma. Here we will have the chance to track rhinos on foot with a local ranger!

In Nakitoma we will stay in a well equipped campsite within the Rhino Sanctuary.

Estimated Drive Time - 6-7 hours.

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Approximate Cost</b>
Rhino tracking at the Ziwa Rhino Sanctuary	USD 40

### **About Nakitoma:**

The Ziwa Rhino Sanctuary near Nakitoma was created to reintroduce the rhinoceros to Uganda, which had previously been extinct there

since 1982. The 70 square-kilometre sanctuary in pristine bush country is currently home to the only wild rhinos in Uganda. The sanctuary's long-term goal is to build a sustainable rhino population and relocate rhinos back to their original habitat in Uganda's protected areas. In addition to the rhino-breeding program, Rhino Fund Uganda also runs community upliftment and education programs in the surrounding villages.

During our stay, one of the trained rangers will introduce you to the sanctuary and provide you with information about the rhinos. Depending on where our rhinos happen to be when you arrive, you can take to the opportunity to go out with the guide by vehicle and then approach the rhinos up close on foot. This is a fantastic opportunity to observe the rhinos in their habitat at a very close, and very safe, distance. The animals are magnificent and the opportunity to see them up close is truly one not to be missed!

## **Day 56: Kaniyo Pabidi ( Sun 23 Jan )**

Today we continue to Kaniyo Pabidi in the Budongo Forest, in the southern part of the Murchison Falls National Park. Here we will head out for our included chimpanzee tracking walk in the afternoon!

*Please note that for conservation reasons the maximum group size to track the chimpanzees is 12 people, so if we have a large group we will split in half, one half going on the walk this afternoon and the other half going tomorrow morning.*

In Kaniyo Pabidi we will stay in basic dorm rooms in a small lodge in the Budongo Forest.

Estimated Drive Time - 2-3 hours.

### **Activity**

### **Approximate Cost**

Trek on foot in the Budongo Forest in search of habituated chimpanzees

Included in Kitty

### **About Kaniyo Pabidi:**

Kaniyo Pabidi is an eco-tourism site within the Budongo Forest Reserve in the southern section of Murchison Falls National Park. The terrain of the Budongo Forest is flat, allowing for good on-foot travelling conditions for the average tourist to trek out to try and spot the resident chimpanzees.

Our basic lodge is located on the edge of the chimpanzees' home range, significantly diminishing the risk of a long trek before contact is made with the group - the habitat consists of primary forest with medium understory vegetation-density allowing for good visibility of the canopy (and thus of the chimpanzees) and the presence of savanna and grassland areas neighbouring the primary forest present an interesting opportunity for viewing of different ecosystems. There is an extensive (115km in total) and well-maintained trail system that further facilitates visitor accessibility.

## Day 57 to 58: Murchison Falls National Park ( Mon 24 Jan to Tue 25 Jan )

If we had to split the group for chimpanzee tracking, the other half of the group will head out for the walk this morning. When we are ready to continue, we will drive to the central region of Murchison Falls National Park to reach our campsite.

Estimated Drive Time - 2-3 hours (to the campsite).

On the next day, we will head out early in the truck for a included morning of game driving around the northern area of the National Park - we will take a local vehicle barge to get over the Nile and pick up a ranger to show us around in search of wildlife!

We will return to our campsite for lunch, and then embark on an included launch cruise on the Nile to spot wildlife from the water and to see the spectacularly-powerful Murchison Falls.

In Murchison Falls National Park we will stay in a well equipped campsite at Paraa on the southern banks of the River Nile in the heart of the park.

*Please note that the roads leading into and around Murchison Falls are very poor and can be hazardous in wet conditions. If there has been heavy rain recently, it may not be possible to go into the National Park beyond Kaniyo Pabidi - this is firstly for safety reasons on the drive in, and secondly due to the risk of extreme bogging that could cause us to miss the gorilla treks further along in our trip. We will always endeavour to reach the National Park as per the itinerary; but when this is occasionally not possible, please respect the tour leader's decision in this matter. On these occasions we will be able to utilise this time with spending longer in Lake Bunyonyi.*

### Activity

### Approximate Cost

Launch cruise on the River Nile to the mighty Murchison Falls

Included in Kitty

Head out game driving in our overland truck in Murchison Falls National Park

Included in Kitty

### About Murchison Falls National Park:

Murchison Falls National Park is Uganda's largest reserve and is bisected by the mighty White Nile river. It is named after the dramatic Murchison Falls - where the world's longest river explodes violently through a narrow cleft in the Rift Valley escarpment to plunge into a frothing pool 43m below. The falls are often described as the most dramatic thing to occur along the entire length of the Nile, and are best seen from a boat cruise along the river!

Wildlife populations have largely recovered from the poaching of the 1980s - in the lush grassland to the north of the Nile, elephants, buffaloes, giraffes and a variety of antelope are regularly encountered on game drives, while lions are seen with increasing frequency. The Nile itself hosts one of Africa's densest hippo and crocodile populations,



and an incredible variety of waterbirds.

## **Day 59: Mpanga Forest ( Wed 26 Jan )**

This morning we will make our way out of the national park and head South to Mpanga Forest via Kampala. This is a chance to experience a new environment as we camp in the forest near traditional communities. We will hopefully be able to visit the Mpambire drum making village to experience their ancient traditions and culture.

Estimated Drive Time - 9-10 hours.

### **About Mpanga Forest:**

Mpanga Forest is a small yet stunning forest which has been protected as a research site since 1953. It has tracks throughout that observers can use to witness the varied bird population as well as a selection of small mammals. There are over 300 species of bird as well as a multitude of butterflies, moths and shrubs. The area is also very well known for the large size of the trees within the forest.

The most common tree in the forest is the Celtis, a large hardwood tree. This is the most dominant as the soft wood trees are often used to make traditional drums by the surrounding communities. The drum making tradition has been part of African heritage since time immemorial to communicate and celebrate.

## **Day 60 to 61: Queen Elizabeth National Park ( Thu 27 Jan to Fri 28 Jan )**

This morning we travel to the Queen Elizabeth National Park, beautifully set between the Great Rift Valley lakes of Lake Edward and Lake George, undertaking a game drive on our way to the campsite.

After lunch we will take an included boat cruise along the Kazinga Channel, well-known for pelicans, eagles and other wonderful birdlife as well as its healthy population of hippos. During our time in the park we also hope to see elephants, lions, leopards, buffaloes, Ugandan kobs and waterbucks.

The next morning we are up early to go on a full day game drive making our way into the depths of the park. We will experience areas of the National Park that are impossible to reach without a full days excursion!

In Queen Elizabeth National Park we will camp at a basic campsite with drop toilets inside the park. Your leader will explain the basic safety aspects of camping in an unfenced area amongst the wildlife upon arrival.

Estimated Drive Time - 8-10 hours.

### **About Queen Elizabeth National Park:**

The magnificent Queen Elizabeth National Park lies across the Equator in the southwest of Uganda, bordering the Rift Valley lakes of Edward and George. The animals that make their home here include many hippos, tree-climbing lions, elephants, buffaloes, Ugandan kob, waterbuck, bushbuck and topi.

Uganda's wildlife took a terrible hammering from poaching and war after the military coup of the 1970s and beyond, but in recent decades the government and wildlife authorities have done a great deal to eradicate poaching and the wildlife is once again on the increase. Elephant numbers have increased substantially, with an influx from the Congo where they are still being poached.

Queen Elizabeth National Park contains the most astonishing number of different fauna, including 100 different types of mammal and over 600 species of birds. We also take a boat cruise along the Kazinga Channel between the park's two lakes, which is well-known for pelicans, eagles and other wonderful birdlife as well as its healthy population of hippos.

### **Day 62 to 63: Bwindi ( Sat 29 Jan to Sun 30 Jan )**

Here we will go on what is undoubtedly the highlight of the trip - trekking to see the Mountain Gorillas in their natural forest habitat.

This region is one of the last remaining sanctuaries for the mountain gorilla. No more than 8 people per day can visit any one habituated family, and visits are strictly controlled to minimise the possibility of disturbance or transmission of disease to the animals.

Tracking gorillas in the dense forest can sometimes be wet, muddy and uncomfortable. The terrain is by no means easy either, so it can be pretty strenuous and often humid; however, the sheer thrill of coming across a habituated group of gorillas, dominated by a great male silverback, more than outweighs any difficulty. You need to be prepared and fit enough to walk at least 4 hours - uphill and downhill. We can usually get very close to the mountain gorillas, who are placid and gentle, and watching their movements is like seeing a mirror image of yourself! Once you find them, you will stay with the gorillas for one unforgettable hour!

When visiting the gorillas you will be assigned a trekking group and time on your permit. The group may be split up into different trekking groups during the day.

In Bwindi we will stay in a campsite that occasionally has some very special visitors, the incredible mountain gorillas!

*Please note that the gorilla permits are paid for in full by the trip kitty - however, we have to purchase the permits in advance on the customers' behalf, so a higher deposit is charged on the trip price to protect us from losing this money in the event of cancellation - please see the notes at the end for further detail.*

### **Activity**

### **Approximate Cost**

Trek out for this once in a lifetime experience - Gorilla Tracking with the endangered Mountain Gorillas in the Impenetrable Forest

Included in Kitty

### About Bwindi:

Bwindi Impenetrable National Park lies in southwestern Uganda. It is covered by one of Uganda's oldest and most varied rainforests, which is thought to be over 25,000 years old. Its most renowned feature is the protected mountain gorillas of which there are an estimated 320. This is approximately half of the world's population. There are several habituated groups, which can be tracked.

## Day 64: Lake Mbuoro National Park, Lake Mbuoro ( Mon 31 Jan )

This morning we will make our way into the stunning Lake Mbuoro National Park. This drive will take us across the equator - a prime moment for some photos!

In the afternoon we may have time for a walking safari or even a boat trip on Lake Mbuoro.

We will stay in an incredible campsite close to the lake where you may be lucky enough to see hippos leaving the water in the evening.

Estimated Drive Time - 8-9 hours.

### Activity

### Approximate Cost

Walking safari in Lake Mbuoro National Park	USD 30
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### About Lake Mbuoro National Park:

Lake Mbuoro National Park is located in an area covered by extensive acacia woodland. It is a unique habitat not found elsewhere in Uganda, making the reserve home to a quite different variety of fauna to that which is found in many of the other parks. It is the best place in the country to see the gigantic eland antelope and home to about 68 different species of mammals in total. The most commonly seen are zebra, impala, buffalo and topi - and there are also rare sightings of the roan antelope. Leopard, hyenas and jackals are all predators in the region.

The five lakes within the park attract hippos, crocodiles and a variety of waterbirds, while the swamp fringes hide the sitatunga antelope and red, black and yellow papyrus gonalek. Lake Mbuoro is a small park, not swarming with tourists, which gives it a much more natural feel to some of the other more famous East African parks.

On Dragoman tours we camp on the shores of the lake at a stunning wild location surrounded by the wildlife, taking an early morning guided

walking safari through the park allowing us to see the animals and spectacular birdlife.

#### **About Lake Mbuoro:**

Lake Mbuoro National Park is 158 square miles in which there are 68 mammal species. The Park has areas of wetlands, grasslands, forest and more as well as Zebra which are only found in this area of Southern Uganda.

### **Day 65 to 66: Jinja, Nakuru National Park ( Tue 01 Feb to Wed 02 Feb )**

**Border Information:** Exit Uganda at Malaba, enter Kenya at Malaba.

Over the next 2 days we will travel back to the east through Jinja to Nakuru.

We will most likely split the drive with a nightstop in Jinja, but if the road conditions improve on a different road then we may go via the western town of Fort Portal instead. Both Jinja and Fort Portal have decent campsites to stay in.

Either way, we will reach Nakuru by the second evening and enjoy a night relaxing at a campsite that we are staying in for 2 nights.

This is our base for tomorrow's excursion into Nakuru National Park. If we make good time on the drive we may have the opportunity to take a walk around the working dairy farm where our campsite is, and to visit a local women's knitting collective.

Estimated Drive Times - 7-9 hours each day.

#### **About 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 acrid 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. However, 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 67: Nakuru National Park ( Thu 03 Feb )

This morning we head into Nakuru National Park for an included half-day game drive in local safari trucks. Nakuru is a beautiful park with a large lake and many forested areas - it is teeming with wildlife and there is an excellent chance to see both black and white rhinos.

In the afternoon we will have the opportunity to take a walk around the working dairy farm where our campsite is, and to visit a local women's knitting collective.

In Nakuru we will stay at a beautiful and well equipped campsite located on a dairy farm on the outskirts of town.

### Activity

### Approximate Cost

Walk to explore a colonial dairy farm and visit a local women's knitting collective

USD 5

## Day 68 to 69: Maasai Mara National Reserve ( Fri 04 Feb to Sat 05 Feb )

Today we will be met by our 6-person 4x4 jeeps that will take us on our 2-night excursion to the Maasai Mara. We will load the jeeps with our personal gear (but we will not need our camping equipment) and then head off to Maasai Mara, leaving our truck behind.

We will also be leaving our large bags behind (where they will be stored in a secure location in Nairobi), and advise you to bring along a smaller daypack for your personal gear for this trip that will need to be packed soon after the group meeting before we set off. You should pack clothing for 3 days (including a warm jumper or fleece and long trousers), a waterproof jacket, toiletries (including sun screen and insect repellent), your camera and charger, a small towel, a head torch, a water bottle, books and personal snacks, etc.

On arrival, we will have the chance for a short evening game drive in the Maasai Mara National Park before heading to our campsite. The Maasai Mara is an incredibly scenic area and is one of the world's greatest places for wildlife spotting which is absolutely teeming with giraffe, buffalo, zebra, elephants, lions, cheetah, leopards, and other big game! On both nights at the Maasai Mara, we will stay in a basic campground on the outskirts of the National Park. The campsite has set-tents and bedding, but is self-catered (we will use our kitchen equipment brought from the truck).



The following day we will go out for the full day game driving in the National Park before returning to our campsite for a second night. There is also the opportunity for a sunset balloon flight over the savannah - demand for this activity is very high so you must reserve this at the time of booking your trip to avoid disappointment. Tonight we will stay at the same campsite on the outskirts of the Maasai Mara.

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Approximate Cost</b>
Head out on a phenomenal safari in 4x4s into the Maasai Mara - one of the best areas in Africa for wildlife and scenery	Included in Kitty
Take a hot air balloon flight to see the sunrise over the incredible scenery of the Maasai Mara (alternative to the scheduled game drive). This must be pre-booked through your sales consultant.	USD 550

**About Maasai Mara National Reserve:**

The Maasai Mara National Reserve is a vast savanna in southern Kenya, and one of the greatest places in the world to spot East African wildlife in its natural habitat! The area has a phenomenal abundance of wildlife and huge populations of lions, leopards, cheetahs, elephants, giraffes, zebra, antelopes, gazelles, wildebeest, hippos, crocodiles, buffalo, and many more. As well as being teeming with wildlife, the sheer beauty of the region is equally breathtaking - the rolling hills, scrub, savanna, and trees create a stunning backdrop and atmosphere.

Affectionately known as 'The Mara', a visit to the area including some game drives (and possibly an awe-inspiring sunrise balloon flight!) is one of the major highlights of Africa and an unforgettable travel experience.

**Day 70: Nairobi ( Sun 06 Feb )**

Today we will have a final game drive in the Maasai Mara in the early morning, before heading back to Nairobi and our campsite in Karen, arriving at about 4:00pm or 5:00pm. This is where we will meet our overland truck and start using the truck's camping equipment. In Nairobi we will stay in a well equipped campsite in the suburb of Karen on the outskirts of the city.

Estimated Drive Time - 5-6 hours.

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Approximate Cost</b>
NNP Animal orphanage & Safari walk, Nairobi	KES 500
Explore the museum at the site of the former home of Karen Blixen, the author of 'Out of Africa'	KES 1200
Visit the Langata Giraffe Centre in Nairobi	KES 1000

Learn all about the different tribal groups of Kenya at the Bomas of Kenya cultural centre in Nairobi USD 40

Discover some of Kenya's ancient hominids at the National Museum in Nairobi KES 1200

## Day 71: Nairobi ( Mon 07 Feb )

**Border Information:** If joining in Nairobi, you will most likely enter Kenya at Nairobi Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (IATA code: NBO).

There will be a group meeting at the joining hotel at 6:00pm. Please look out for a note from your tour leader at the reception when you arrive giving more details about this important meeting - your leader will need to check your Ethiopia visa (please see below for details).

If you would like to explore Nairobi fully, we advise you arrive a day earlier, or arrive early in the morning to give yourself a full day before the meeting in the evening. Possible activities include visiting the Karen Blixen Museum, the National Museum and the Langata Giraffe Centre. Please note that many of the options listed below will only be possible for those with extra time in Nairobi before the start of your trip with us - please contact the Sales team if you would like to book pre-tour accommodation with us to have extra time exploring Nairobi.

In Nairobi we will camp in the grounds of a peaceful eco-camp in the suburb of Karen.

Hotel for the night: Wildebeest Eco Camp

Activity	Approximate Cost
Visit the Langata Giraffe Centre in Nairobi	KES 1000

## Day 72: Naivasha ( Tue 08 Feb )

Today we make our way to Naivasha, on the edge of a beautiful calm lake in the Great Rift Valley. Here we will have the chance to take an optional boat trip on the lake to spot hippos and African fish eagles, and also to visit the Elsamere Born Free Foundation at the old home of Joy Adamson.

Estimated Drive Time - 3-4 hours.

On the following day we will have free time in the morning to enjoy some excellent optional activities around Naivasha. Naivasha is the base for exploring the Crater Lake Game Sanctuary and the Hell's Gate National Park, two scenic areas that are some of the only places in East Africa where you can safely explore and look for wildlife on foot.

In Naivasha we will stay at a well equipped campsite on the lake shore.

Activity	Approximate Cost
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Visit to Lake Naivasha	Included in Kitty
Overland through western Kenya and the Rift Valley	USD 40
Explore the beautiful landscape and wildlife of Hell's Gate National Park by foot or by bicycle	USD 50

### About Naivasha:

Northwest of the Kenyan capital of Nairobi lies the serene Lake Naivasha. A beautiful lake with some excellent campsites along the shore, there is the fantastic opportunity to take a calm boat trip to spot a wide variety of birds (including the African fish eagle) and the hippos that call the lake home. Naivasha is also home to the Elsamere Conservation Centre, a sustainability and conservation trust based in the former home of Joy of George Adamson, the founders of the Born Free project.

Naivasha is also the gateway to the fabulous Hell's Gate National Park - a rugged and primordial landscape, Hell's Gate is full of wildlife but contains no dangerous predators, meaning that it is one of the few National Parks that visitors are able to explore on foot and by bicycle. The nearby game reserve of Crater Lake is also perfect for walking safaris amongst the wildlife of the region.

## Day 73 to 74: Naivasha, Naro Moru ( Wed 09 Feb to Thu 10 Feb )

Today we will have some free time for optional activities in Naivasha before we head through the hills of central Kenya through the area's beautiful scenery and tea plantations, to arrive at the small village of Naro Moru at the base of Mount Kenya.

Estimated Drive Time - 5-6 hours.

On the following day we will have a free day in Naro Moru to take optional walks around the lower slopes of Mount Kenya, explore the nearby Mau Mau caves, or take an optional game drive in the nearby Sweetwaters National Reserve.

In Naro Moru we will stay at a well equipped campsite.

Activity	Approximate Cost
Guided walk to the Nayaroi Caves in the foothills of Mt. Kenya, used by the Mau Mau during the rebellion against British colonial rule	KES 1000
Head out horse riding in the forests around Naro Moru	USD 25

Nature walks around the base of Mt. Kenya,  
searching for birdlife and Colobus monkeys      USD 20

### About Naro Moru:

Naro Moru is a tiny village on the western flanks of Mount Kenya, most famous as being the starting point for the most popular trekking route up the mountain. There are many activities available for short-term visitors, such as day-treks on the cool forested slopes of the mountain to look for birds and local caves used by the Mau Mau in their fight against the British in the 1950s.

## Day 75: Samburu Village ( Fri 11 Feb )

Today we will travel to the Samburu region near to the small town of Archer's Post, where we will visit a Samburu village. Here we will be shown around the village and their homes, play with the children and learn all about the way of life here for the Samburu people!

We will camp in the village in the heart of the community tonight, where there are no toilet or washing facilities.

Estimated Drive Time - 4-5 hours.

### Activity

Visit to Samburu tribal community and cultural project

### Approximate Cost

Included in Kitty

### About Samburu Village:

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 76: Samburu National Reserve ( Sat 12 Feb )

This morning we will enter the Samburu National Reserve, where we will enjoy game drives in the truck (breaking for a long lunch during the heat of the day).

Samburu is a stunning National Reserve and is a great opportunity to spot big game such as cheetah, leopards, lions, and buffalo. The Reserve is also home to other animals rarely seen in the National Parks further south, such as Grevy's zebras, Somali ostriches and gerenuk ('giraffe-necked antelopes').

Tonight we will wild camp in a camping area in the National Reserve - facilities are very basic, but the area is a 5-10 minute walk from Samburu Lodge.

*Please note that during very wet conditions we may need to use locally-chartered 4x4 jeeps rather than our truck to get a good game*

*drive in - in this instance we may make this option available at extra cost.*

### Activity

### Approximate Cost

Wildlife safari in Samburu National Reserve      Included in Kitty

### About 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.

## Day 77: Moyale ( Sun 13 Feb )

Today we will have an early start to travel through the very rarely-visited region of northern Kenya, crossing the infamous Marsabit-Moyale road to the very northern border town of Moyale. The scenery today is spectacular as we travel through the black lunar landscapes near Marsabit and pass mountain greenery, spectacular craters, watercourses, bush country and termite mounds.

Estimated Drive Time - 11-12 hours.

In Moyale we will stay in a basic local hotel or camp in a local campsite.

*Please note that due to security issues in this particular area, we will sometimes be accompanied by two armed police escorts.*

## Day 78: Konso ( Mon 14 Feb )

**Border information:** Exit Kenya at Moyale, enter Ethiopia at Moyale.

*For those on a longer combination trip starting in Cape Town or Victoria Falls, please pay special attention to the visa notes in the information below.*

Today we will cross the border into Ethiopia and have a full day of travel to Konso, home to the local Konso people and our gateway to southern Ethiopia.

In Konso we will camp in the grounds of a basic lodge.

Estimated Drive Time - 9-10 hours.

### Activity

### Approximate Cost

Visit this traditional village and see how locals have lived there for hundreds of years. Soak in the calm atmosphere of a village that has stood the test of time.

Included in Kitty

### About Konso:

In the far south of Ethiopia on the banks of the Sagan river is the town of Konso, the gateway to the Omo Valley. Home to the Konso people, a Cushtic-speaking people native to the region, there are many traditional Konso village in the area where little has changed about the way of life over the centuries and old traditions are strongly upheld.

## Day 79: Arba Minch, Konso ( Tue 15 Feb )

Today we will arrive in the town of Arba Minch, a small town overlooking Lake Chamo. On route we will visit Konso Village and a Cultural Centre.

In Arba Minch we will stay in a basic local hotel.

Estimated Drive Time - 6-7 hours.

### Activity

### Approximate Cost

Hire bicycles to explore the stunning surrounds of Arba Minch

ETB 200

Boat trip on Lake Chamo to see the crocodile 'market'

ETB 450

Visit the fascinating village of Chinchä to learn all about the culture of the Dorze people

ETB 300

### About 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 7 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 80 to 81: Arba Minch ( Wed 16 Feb to Thu 17 Feb



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**Border Information:** If you are joining in Arba Minch, you will most likely enter Ethiopia at Arba Minch Airport (IATA code: AMH).

Welcome to Ethiopia! Today is the arrival day for those joining in Arba Minch, and will be a free day to explore the town.

There will be an important meeting with your crew at 6:00pm today. Look out for a note from them at the hotel reception letting you know where to meet.

The following day we have time for optional activities such as the crocodile market or bike rides around the city.

In Arba Minch we will stay in a basic local hotel.

Hotel for the night: Zebib Pension

**Zebib Pension**

Secha

Arba Minch

Ethiopia

Tel - +251 4688 14788

Activity	Approximate Cost
Hire bicycles to explore the stunning surrounds of Arba Minch	ETB 200
Boat trip on Lake Chamo to see the crocodile 'market'	ETB 450
Visit the fascinating village of Chinchä to learn all about the culture of the Dorze people	ETB 300

**Day 82: Awassa, Wendo Genet ( Fri 18 Feb )**

Today we will head north to the small town of Awassa, where we can visit the local fish market.

After our visit we will head to Wendo Genet, a small town in the hills above Awassa, where we will stay for the night.

Estimated Drive Time - 7-9 hours.

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

Head out on a short walk to the waterfalls near Wendo Genet ETB 100

Experience the true local culture at this fish market. If you would like to try the soup make sure you bring your own bowl! Included in Kitty

### About Awassa:

Awassa is a small town near the Ethiopian city of Shashemene, and was the capital of the former Sidamo Province.

### About Wendo Genet:

Wendo Genet is a resort town in Ethiopia located near Awassa. 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 "Wendo Paradise", in reference to the beautiful panorama with a rich endowment of forests, wildlife and abundant water.

## Day 83 to 85: Bale Mountains National Park ( Sat 19 Feb to Mon 21 Feb )

Today we will leave Wendo Genet and drive to the stunning Bale Mountains National Park.

Estimated Drive Time - 4-6 hours.

We will enjoy 2 full days to explore the National Park. We will keep one day completely free to head out for optional guided walks - there are several possibilities for routes, including highland routes up the hills and moorlands searching for mountain nyalas, or lowland walks through the forest areas to look for Bale monkeys! On the other day we will drive in the truck up to the Sanetti Plateau, all the way to the second-highest point in Ethiopia (the 4359m summit of Tulu Dimtu) to explore the primeval landscape and search for Ethiopian wolves.

In the Bale Mountains we will stay in dorms in a basic lodge near the entrance to the National Park.

### Activity

### Approximate Cost

Guided hikes through Bale Mountain National Park Included in Kitty

Head up to the incredible Sanetti Plateau on a day trip with our overland truck, stopping to explore the area on foot and search for Ethiopian Wolves Included in Kitty

### About Bale Mountains National Park:

The Bale Mountains National Park is situated on a high plateau surrounded by mountain peaks which soar to over 4,000 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 Ethiopian wolf, Menelik's bushbuck and the Mountain nyala. There are some 200 species of birds within the park, including 13 of Ethiopia's 23 endemic species.

There are many different trekking routes around the National Park, through the forests and mountains and up onto the moorlands. The high Sanetti Plateau is accessible to vehicles, so we can also explore this high moor in our overland truck.

### Day 86 to 87: Lake Ziway ( Tue 22 Feb to Wed 23 Feb )

Today we will leave the Bale Mountains and head to the small town of Ziway.

The following day we will take an included boat trip across Lake Ziway to Tulu Gudo Island, where we will have a short guided tour of the ancient monastery there and view some of the old religious manuscripts.

In Ziway we will stay in a small local hotel.

Estimated Drive Time - 4-5 hours.

#### Activity

#### Approximate Cost

Take a boat trip across Lake Ziway to Tulu Gudo Island, and explore the old Coptic monastery on the island

ETB 4000

### About Lake Ziway:

Lake Ziway, about 100kms south of Addis Ababa, 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 home to an atmospheric and colourful old Coptic Christian monastery which is said to have housed the Ark of the Covenant in the 9th Century CE.

### Day 88: Awash National Park ( Thu 24 Feb )

Toady we will drive to Awash National Park and overnight in the lovely Awash Falls Lodge. Who said luxury was not part of overlanding! This is a stunning place to experience this great little National Park.

Estimated drive time - 7 - 8 hours

### Activity

### Approximate Cost

Head out with a scout to explore the trails of this National Park.

Included in Kitty

### About Awash National Park:

Awash National Park is named after the Awash river which runs along the southern border of the park. Along the river are many beautiful waterfalls that can be viewed in multiple locations.

The park is over 700 kms squared and is a hive of birding activity ranging from the ostrich to the hornbill. The volcanic landscape is also a sight to behold.

## Day 89 to 91: Harar ( Fri 25 Feb to Sun 27 Feb )

Today we will have a long drive east through the mountains to the ancient trading city of Harar. We will stay in a charming small hotel in the old city itself.

Estimated Drive Time - 8-10 hours

The following day we have a free day in ancient Harar and will have an included guided city tour of the walled city of Harar (Harar Jugol). Enjoy its colourful markets, mosques and shrines. In the evening you can visit the Hyena Men who feed the hyenas every night just outside the walls of the city.

Our final day in this incredible city is a free day to explore this amazing city on your own. It is one of the most important historic sites on this trip and one not to be missed.

### Activity

### Approximate Cost

Take a guided tour for half of the day through the winding streets of this ancient city.

Included in Kitty

Witness Harar's tradition of feeding wild Hyenas by hand each evening just outside the city walls.

Included in Kitty

### About Harar:

Harar is a walled city on a plateau in eastern Ethiopia. It is known for its winding alleyways and traditional houses with wooden balconies hanging over the street. The architecture in this city is wonderfully unique and unlike anywhere else in Ethiopia. The city has many mosques throughout as it is an Islamic city, 82 in total at the last count. Another incredible sight in Harar is the nightly feeding of Hyenas, an

experience that has to be seen to be believed!

## Day 92 to 94: Addis Ababa ( Mon 28 Feb to Wed 02 Mar )

Today we will travel to the bustling Ethiopian capital of Addis Ababa, where we will have a free afternoon to explore the city.

In Addis Ababa we will stay in a comfortable hotel with good facilities.

Estimated Drive Time - 3-4 hours.

**Border Information:** if you are leaving in Addis Ababa, you will most likely exit Ethiopia from Addis Ababa Bole International Airport (IATA code: ADD).

The following day is the end day for passengers finishing their trip in Addis Ababa. Please note there is no accommodation included on the trip tonight - please contact the Dragoman Sales team if you are interested in booking extra nights of accommodation in order to fully explore and take part in some of the optional activities listed below.

Activity	Approximate Cost
Visit "Lucy", one of the oldest complete hominid skeletons ever found, at the National Museum	ETB 10
Stroll through the Addis Ababa Mercato, one of the largest markets in Africa	Free
Visit Africa Hall, a symbol of African independence and optimism	Free
Visit the St. George's Cathedral (Giorgis Cathedral), built to commemorate Ethiopia's victory over the Italians in 1896	Free
Visit the Menelik Mausoleum, built to serve as the tombs of emperors and princes	Free
Explore the fascinating Ethnological Museum, one of the best museums in Africa set in a former palace of Haile Selassie	ETB 100

### About Addis Ababa:

Referred to more commonly as simply "Addis", the Ethiopian capital of Addis Ababa lies amongst wooded hills at an altitude of about 2,300 metres, giving it a pleasant climate.

Addis has many sights to offer visitors - 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 Mercato, one of Africa's largest open-air markets. All manner of arts and crafts can be found in the souvenir shops on Churchill Avenue, and there is often some excellent live music to be found in the centre of the city!

## IMPORTANT NOTES

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

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

We update these notes regularly, so please ensure you have an up-to-date version of these trip notes.

We intend to follow the planned route but exact night stops and inclusions cannot be guaranteed. It sometimes happens that we decide to make a change to our 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, which often have poor infrastructure. You should expect that some of these areas do not adhere to 'Western' safety standards.

## ALTITUDE WARNING

### **Warning - this trip goes above 2800m.**

Please note that this trip spends time above 2800 metres/9200 feet where it is possible for travellers to experience some adverse effects on your health due to the altitude, potentially including Acute Mountain Sickness (AMS), High Altitude Cerebral Edema (HACE) and High Altitude Pulmonary Edema (HAPE).

Because of this it is very important that you make yourself aware of the cause and effects of travelling at altitude and monitor your health during this trip.

[For further information please click here to download our AMS information sheet](#) or refer to the following website: [www.high-altitude-medicine.com](http://www.high-altitude-medicine.com)

Your leader will also hand you a copy of the AMS information sheet during your trip as well as holding a short meeting prior to travelling to altitudes above 2800m/9200ft for the first time.

If you are starting your trip in a destination above 2800m/9200ft we strongly advise reading this information prior to arrival.

**Some Travel Insurance companies will stipulate a maximum altitude limit. Please ensure that you are covered and if necessary pay the additional premium of extended cover.**

## GORILLA TREK NOTE

To track the gorillas you will need a permit. In order for us to confirm this permit for you we require the following:

1. Passport details at the time of booking
2. A non refundable trip deposit payment of GBP650 at the time of booking (higher than our usual trip deposit)



Please be aware that we cannot confirm your place on a gorilla trip without your passport details. Please also note that the cost of the permit is still covered entirely by the kitty as is normal for a cost of this type. The deposit mentioned is simply a higher trip deposit to protect Dragoman against cancellations, as we have to pay for the permits in full in advance and our tour leaders collect this amount back from the kitty.

The likelihood of seeing gorillas is virtually guaranteed; however, they are wild animals so we can never say that the chance is 100%.

### **IMPROVED TRIP NOTICE - THIS TRIP HAS UNDERGONE SIGNIFICANT CHANGES!**

Please note that all or part of this trip has undergone an extensive review recently, and at least one significant change has been made to the itinerary for future departures. There may be a transition period between the old and new itineraries, so please ensure that you are looking the correct trip details and itinerary for the specific departure date that you are interested in or are booked on.

These trip changes are mostly improvements made in light of frequent suggestions from our passengers and crew, and occasionally in light of safety considerations. While we have thoroughly researched all aspects of the changed section of the trip, and put the itinerary together with the best of intentions, please note that your crew may be finding some information out for us on the ground, will be playing some things by ear, and may alter the itinerary slightly in places if becomes necessary. Usually we find that this is rarely a problem but rather our improvements are very popular and do serve to make the trip better than its previous incarnation.

However, the warning is sincere and these trips must be viewed as significantly changed from what we were used to operating, so may have some surprises in store for our groups and our crew - if this concerns you or you would rather stick to a tried-and-tested itinerary, then we recommend that you wait a year or two until we have this itinerary perfected following operating it many times, or of course to consider one of the more established trips in our extensive portfolio.

### **EXPLORATORY TRIP WARNING - THIS IS A NEW TRIP FOR US!**

Please note that all or part of this trip is a brand new itinerary, and could be going through completely new areas for Dragoman. This is what we call a New or Exploratory trip, and it means that all the passengers on these trips for the first season are the route's pioneers!

However, while we have thoroughly researched all aspects of this new route and put the itinerary together with the best of intentions, please note that your crew will be finding a lot of information out for us on the ground, will be playing a lot of things by ear, and may alter the itinerary slightly in places where it becomes necessary. Most trips will have slight or significant changes made to them after this first season, and frankly we would be very surprised if an Exploratory trip was to run perfectly to the published itinerary. Usually we find that this is rarely a problem but rather an exciting feature, that there are much more pleasant surprises in store than unpleasant ones, and these Exploratory trips are a fantastic opportunity to shape the trip as a group.

However, the warning is sincere and these trips must be viewed as Exploratory - if this concerns you or you would rather stick to a tried-and-tested itinerary, then we recommend that you wait a year or two until we have this itinerary perfected following operating it many times, or of course to consider one of the more established trips in our extensive portfolio.

### **PHYSICAL PREPARATION**

#### **PHYSICAL PREPARATION FOR EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA**

Travelling in Eastern and Southern Africa or Middle East can be demanding - long, rough travel days, dusty conditions and basic campsites all provide a challenge. It can be very hot in places, but also can be surprisingly cold at night so please make sure you are prepared! There will be many early starts in Africa, especially on mornings where we head out on wildlife spotting trips.

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.

We will be travelling to areas in remote locations where medical assistance will not be available. If you have a medical condition such as a heart condition that would put you at risk, we would suggest that this is not the trip for you. Also, please be aware that should an emergency occur, there is likely to be a considerable delay in accessing medical care, and by joining our trip you accept this risk.

## **PHYSICAL PREPARATION FOR THE NILE ROUTE**

Travelling on the Nile Route can be demanding - long, rough travel days, dusty conditions and basic accommodation all provide a challenge. It can be very hot in places during the day (especially in Sudan and Egypt) but also can be surprisingly cold at night so please make sure you are prepared! In Ethiopia it is often colder and has more rain than many people expect, and there are sections of high altitude, such as the Simien Mountains. You'll travel through some remote regions, and accommodation tends to be very basic in the entire region, including some wild camps with no facilities at all.

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.

We will be travelling to areas in remote locations where medical assistance will not be available. If you have a medical condition such as a heart condition that would put you at risk, we would suggest that this is not the trip for you. Also, please be aware that should an emergency occur, there is likely to be a considerable delay in accessing medical care, and by joining our trip you accept this risk.

## **VISA INFORMATION**

Many countries that we visit on our travels will require visas to enter. 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 read the information very carefully to make sure everything is clear and you aware of what you need to do. Please also be aware that rules surrounding visas do change, often suddenly, and without prior warning. This is why it is important that you also double-check the information we provide for yourself.

For visas that are needed in advance, you may wish to submit the applications directly to the relevant embassy or consulate. If you require any supporting documentation for your visa applications, Dragoman will obtain this on your behalf as part of your trip price - we will contact you to request additional information in order to make this application for you.

However, for trips that involve multiple visas, you may find it beneficial to use a specialist visa agency to assist you with your applications. While this does sometimes increase the cost, it usually makes the process much easier for you.

As you will often 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.

Most countries require that your passport is valid for at least 6 months after your entry into the country.

For trips that are not yet guaranteed, you may find yourself in the position whereby you will need to start the visa application process prior to your trip being guaranteed - in this situation we still advise you **not** to purchase flights until your trip is guaranteed. However, you **can** start your visa application process, ensuring that when applying for your visas or letters of invitation that you allow several days before and after your entry into the country to allow for delays, availability of flights, etc.

## KENYA

Citizens of the UK, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, USA, Canada and all EU countries **will** need a visa to enter Kenya as a tourist for up to 90 days. Citizens of other countries should check with the relevant consulates as to whether a visa is required.

Tourists of all nationalities can obtain a visa in advance at any High Commission. Another option is to apply for an **e-visa**, this will need to be applied for at least 7 days **in advance** of arrival into Kenya - please go to [www.ecitizen.go.ke](http://www.ecitizen.go.ke) to set up an account and apply; it may take up to 7 days to be approved, then they will send a visa approval confirmation to your email address which you must print out to present at the border. At the time of writing (2015), the cost of a single-entry visa is USD51, EUR40 or GBP30 for all nationalities.

You are allowed to exit and then re-enter Kenya with just a single-entry visa, provided your travel in between visits to Kenya is only within Tanzania and Uganda. If you have been to any further countries during this time, then this single-entry visa will no longer be valid, and you will have to purchase a new visa or e-visa to re-enter Kenya.

A valid yellow fever vaccination certificate is required from travellers coming from [areas with risk of yellow fever transmission](#).

## NAMIBIA

Citizens of the UK, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, USA, Canada and most EU countries **will not** need a visa to visit Namibia as a tourist for up to 3 months.

Citizens of other countries should check with the relevant consulates as to whether a visa is required. If a visa is required, you will need to obtain it **in advance**. Please note that certain Eastern European nationalities **will** need to obtain a visa.

A valid yellow fever vaccination certificate is required from travellers coming from [areas with risk of yellow fever transmission](#) (including transiting through an airport in an area of risk).

Additionally, if the child is travelling with only one parent, with neither biological parent, or is unaccompanied, then they must provide a birth certificate and an affidavit of consent of the parent(s) that are not travelling, to prove that the trip is made with both parents' consent. Please contact your nearest Namibian Embassy if you have further questions regarding this.

## MALAWI

Citizens of the UK, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, USA, Canada and EU countries **will** need a visa to enter Malawi as a tourist for up to 90 days. The visa can be obtained **in advance** through your nearest consulate. If you can't get a visa before travel, you can get a visa **on arrival** at the border. The current (December 2017) cost of obtaining the visa on the border is USD75 for all nationalities.

Citizens of other countries should check with the relevant consulates as to whether a visa is required.

A valid yellow fever vaccination certificate is required from all travellers.

## ETHIOPIA

Citizens of the UK, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, USA, Canada and all EU countries **will** need a visa to enter Ethiopia as a tourist for up to 90 days.

If arriving into Ethiopia at Addis Ababa Bole International Airport, most nationalities can obtain a visa **on arrival at the airport**. If you are starting your trip in Gondar, you will be able to obtain your visa in Addis Ababa airport and stamp into Ethiopia before changing planes to fly to Gondar. At the time of writing (2015), the cost of a 30-day visa is USD50, and a 90-day visa is USD75. You will need two passport photos for the application. Please note that citizens of many Eastern European countries cannot obtain the visa on arrival, and will need to get it in advance as detailed below.

There is also an option to obtain an e-visa. This visa is valid for 30 days from the date you enter the country. It can only be used to enter at Addis Ababa and is single entry. This option currently costs 52USD (2018). Be warned that there are currently some fake e-visa websites online that will try to charge an inflated price, the correct one to use is [www.evisa.gov.et](http://www.evisa.gov.et).

**Please note that visas are not available on arrival at any land borders - if arriving at a land border (e.g. from Sudan or Kenya), then you must obtain your visa in advance. This must generally be done at the Ethiopian Embassy in your country of residence only (or the closest place which has an embassy).** The Ethiopian Embassies in Cairo and Nairobi no longer issue visas to non-Egyptian or non-Kenyan residents respectively, so you will not be able to obtain one in either of these places. Please see this website to find your closest embassy or consulate - <http://embassy.goabroad.com/embassies-of/ethiopia> .

Please also be aware that the visa is valid from the date of issue and not the date of entry into Ethiopia, and it is no longer possible to post-date the visas, so please give careful consideration to the timing of your application and to which length of visa will be suitable for your stay.

If you are asked to provide an address in Ethiopia on your visa form, please use the address below:

*Sarem International Hotel  
Belay Zeleke Street  
Addis Ababa  
Tel: +251 11 126 2088*

**Important note:** *Those on longer Northbound combinations from Cape Town or Victoria Falls (specifically trip codes AGV, EEV, AAO, AGO, and EEW) will be unable to apply for an Ethiopia visa before travel, as it will expire before you are able to use it.*

*We have previously advised people to apply for the visa before travelling and ask them to post-date the visa so that it becomes valid when you are due to arrive in Ethiopia. Unfortunately Ethiopian Immigration Officers have now stopped doing this and are making their visas valid as soon as they are issued; they remain valid up to a maximum of 90 days during which time you will have had to have entered and exited Ethiopia.*

*As such, there are now only 2 options for getting this visa successfully in order to continue the combination trip. Both options have been successfully used in the past by those unable to get their visa post-dated.*

*Option 1 - obtain a 2<sup>nd</sup> concurrent passport before travel, send your visa application using this new passport to a specialist visa agency who can keep hold of it and apply for the visa on your behalf later on while you are already in Southern Africa (travelling using your 1<sup>st</sup> passport). Then they will be able to arrange to have it sent out to you in Nairobi (via DHL, FedEx, etc.) for you to pick up. You will likely need a letter from your employer and from Dragoman to apply for a 2<sup>nd</sup> passport, but please contact Dragoman for further advice on this if you prefer this option.*

*Option 2 - continue on the trip as far as Samburu National Park, then temporarily leave the trip - as the truck heads North to Marsabit, you can travel South back to Nairobi on local transport (which our local*

*Samburu guides can help arrange). From Nairobi you can take a flight to Addis Ababa (where you can obtain your Ethiopia visa on arrival) and then on to Arba Minch (airport code AMH). From here you can take a short drive in a local taxi or bus to the town of Konso (this transport can be very easily arranged on arrival) - here you will meet the truck again and re-join the trip. The only section you will miss by taking this option is the drive from Archer's Post - Marsabit - Moyale - Konso, a section without any real 'highlights'. Please contact Dragoman if you would like to take this option and would like assistance booking the flights, or if you would like to discuss these options in more depth.*

*Please note that you **cannot** obtain your visa here while waiting for a connecting flight, and then later try to use this visa to enter at a land border (for example - obtain the visa at Addis Ababa airport while waiting for a connecting flight to Nairobi, then later try to cross overland from Kenya to Ethiopia). This is not accepted - they will check the Place of Issue of the visa and refuse you entry into Ethiopia if you have obtained your visa this way.*

A valid yellow fever vaccination certificate is required from travellers coming from [areas with risk of yellow fever transmission](#) (including transiting through an airport in an area of risk).

## UGANDA

Citizens of the UK, Australia, New Zealand, USA, Canada and most EU countries **will** need a visa to enter Uganda. It is possible to apply for an e-visa just to enter Uganda as a tourist for up to 90 days. This must be done **in advance** at the following website - <https://visas.immigration.go.ug>. At the time of writing (2016), the cost of a single-entry visa is USD50 for all nationalities.

A valid yellow fever vaccination certificate is required from travellers coming from [areas with risk of yellow fever transmission](#).

## TANZANIA

Citizens of the UK, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, USA, Canada and most EU countries **will** need a visa to enter Tanzania as a tourist for up to 90 days. Citizens of Romania **will not** need a visa to enter Tanzania.

The easiest way to get a visa is to obtain it **on arrival**. This is available for almost all nationalities at all land borders and airports into Tanzania. At the time of writing (2015), the cost of a single-entry visa is USD50 for most nationalities and USD100 for USA passport holders - this must be paid in USD cash.

Citizens of other countries should check with the relevant consulates as to whether a visa is required, and whether it will be necessary to obtain it in advance (this is only necessary for a small number of nationalities).

Travelling to and from Zanzibar is still within Tanzania, so does not affect the validity of your Tanzanian visa. However, you will still need to stamp your passport in and out of Zanzibar.

You are allowed to exit and then re-enter Tanzania with just a single-entry visa, provided your travel in between visits to Tanzania is only within Kenya and Uganda. If you have been to any further countries during this time, then this single-entry visa will no longer be valid, and you will have to purchase a new visa to re-enter Tanzania.

A valid yellow fever vaccination certificate is required from travellers coming from [areas with risk of yellow fever transmission](#) (including transiting through an airport in an area of risk). You will almost certainly be asked to show your yellow fever vaccination certificate when arriving to Zanzibar as well.

## BOTSWANA

Citizens of the UK, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, USA, Canada and most EU countries **will not** need a visa to visit Botswana as a tourist for up to 90 days.

Citizens of other countries should check with the relevant consulates as to whether a visa is required. If a visa is required, you will need to obtain it **in advance**.

A valid yellow fever vaccination certificate is required from travellers coming from [areas with risk of yellow fever transmission](#) (including transiting through an airport in an area of risk).

\*Important note\* - Please note that if you're travelling to Botswana with a person under the age of 18 (especially those on our Family Trips in Southern Africa), then you provide a **certified copy** of the child's full unabridged birth certificate in order to enter the country (the one listing the child's details and both parents' details. - the short birth certificate which only lists the child's details won't be accepted).

Additionally, if the child is travelling with only one parent, with neither biological parent, or is unaccompanied, then they must provide an affidavit of consent of the parent(s) that are not travelling, to prove that the trip is made with both parents' consent. Please contact your nearest Botswanan Embassy if you have further questions regarding this.

## SOUTH AFRICA

Citizens of the UK, Ireland, Australia, USA, Canada and most EU countries **will not** need a visa to visit South Africa as a tourist for up to 3 months.

Citizens of other countries should check with the relevant consulates as to whether a visa is required. If a visa is required, you will need to obtain it **in advance** and apply in person to provide biometric data.

A valid yellow fever vaccination certificate is required from travellers coming from [areas with risk of yellow fever transmission](#) (including transiting for over 12 hours in an airport in an area of risk).

## ZAMBIA

Citizens of the UK, Australia, New Zealand, USA, Canada and most EU countries **will** require a visa to enter Zambia as a tourist for up to 90 days. Citizens of Ireland **will not** need a visa to enter Zambia.

The easiest way to get a visa is to obtain it **on arrival**. This is available for most nationalities at all land borders and airports into Zambia. At the time of writing (2015), the cost of a single-entry visa is USD50 for all nationalities - this must be paid in USD cash.

Citizens of other countries should check with the relevant consulates as to whether a visa is required, and whether it will be necessary to obtain it in advance.

A valid yellow fever vaccination certificate is required from travellers coming from [areas with risk of yellow fever transmission](#) (including transiting through an airport in an area of risk).

## ZIMBABWE

Citizens of the UK, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, USA, Canada and all EU countries **will** require a visa to enter Zimbabwe as a tourist for up to 90 days.

The easiest way to get a visa is to obtain it **on arrival**. This is available for most nationalities at all land borders and airports into Zimbabwe. At the time of writing (2015), the cost of a single-entry visa is USD55 for UK and Irish passport holders, and USD30 for most other nationalities - this must be paid in USD cash.

On our YVC trip you will need a **double entry visa**. The same advice as above applies here. The current cost (2017) is USD70 for UK and Irish passport holders.

Citizens of other countries should check with the relevant consulates as to whether a visa is required, and whether it will be necessary to obtain it in advance. Please note that certain Eastern European nationalities will need to obtain the visa in advance as well.

A valid yellow fever vaccination certificate is required from travellers coming from [areas with risk of yellow fever transmission](#).



## TRAVELLING VIA SOUTH AFRICA WITH UNDER-18S

Please note that if you're travelling to South Africa with a person under the age of 18, then you must be able to produce the child's full unabridged birth certificate (the one listing the child's details and both parents' details. - the short birth certificate which only lists the child's details won't be accepted).

There are additional requirements if the child is travelling with only one parent, with neither biological parent, or is unaccompanied. [Please see this link for more details](#) or contact your nearest South African High Commission if you have any specific questions.

These supporting documents will not be required for those directly transiting through a South African International Airport en route to another final destination. However, if you need to go through immigration on arrival in South Africa, collect your luggage and check in again, then you will need the same documentation as detailed above - please check with your airline if this is the case for your flight.

## PERSONAL SPENDING

### PERSONAL SPENDING - AFRICA

Based on the range that previous travellers have spent on our trips in all of Africa, we recommend you allow between USD10 and USD20 per day.

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

### EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA CURRENCIES AND 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 and 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 **no more than 8 years old**. You should not take worn or damaged notes, or any that have been written on. Please bring the majority of the money you intend to change in large denominations (USD/EUR100 and 50 bills) as the exchange rate is often significantly worse if you try to change smaller bills; however, it is also a good idea to have some smaller bills as well, as in more remote areas it can be hard to change amounts over USD50.

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 most ATMs only take Visa cards NOT Mastercard. Please also do not plan to take out large amounts of USD from the ATMs in Zimbabwe for use on the rest of the trip - the cash in Zimbabwe is often old, dirty and falling apart and will not be accepted anywhere else in the world.

Please note that due to a shortage of money in banks and ATMs in Zimbabwe, many ATMs are running dry of cash and some local banks are putting restrictions on international cards being used. It is also illegal to exit Zimbabwe with more than **USD1000** per person, so please make sure that you do not bring a greater amount than this out of Zimbabwe.

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.

Zambian Kwacha - please note that the currency of Zambia (the Kwacha, old code ZMK, new code ZMW) was re-based in 2013, and the old notes are no longer accepted. Please be careful that you only accept notes of the new currency (2013 and later) when exchanging money as some money changers have been known to offload old currency onto travellers. The new currency comes in denominations of ZMW2, 5, 10, 20, 50 and 100 - any notes such as ZMK5000 are the old currency, do not accept them!

## NILE ROUTE CURRENCIES AND 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!

Cash machines are usually available in Egypt, but are infrequent in Ethiopia and northern Kenya, and do not exist in Sudan (at least not any that will work with non Sudanese cards). It is therefore very important that you have a good supply of USD cash, just bringing cards such as Travelex, VISA or Mastercard to top up your cash on the occasions when you find ATMs.

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 **no more than 8 years old**. You should not take worn or damaged notes, or any that have been written on. Please bring the majority of the money you intend to change in large denominations (USD/EUR100 and 50 bills) as the exchange rate is often significantly worse if you try to change smaller bills; however, it is also a good idea to have some smaller bills as well, as in more remote areas it can be hard to change amounts over USD50.

## WHAT ELSE YOU NEED TO KNOW

### Overland Lifestyle and Trip Suitability

Dragoman was founded in 1981, and has had many years of experience of leading overland trips across 4 continents. Overlanding is all about sharing a great travelling experience with like-minded people. On your trip you'll travel in one of Dragoman's purpose-built iconic expedition vehicles on an off the beaten track adventure along rugged roads, experiencing the sights, sounds and smells of the world up-close. Your journey will be overland, sometimes across vast distances, so some long days spent driving are inevitable - but these will be interspersed with breaks of a day or two at a destination or activity. On an overland journey, you are more than just a passenger and everyone gets involved setting up camp - we supply the tent but it's up to you to pitch it! As part of your trip, you will be assigned a truck job which could be collecting firewood or water, luggage loading, organising food, stores, etc.

Like all great adventures, the more you put in the more you'll get out!

We are looking forward to welcoming you on one of our overland journeys, but before we do there are a few things we would like to draw to your attention.

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### Who Travels with Dragoman?

Our groups are made up of people from around the world, and are always an interesting mix of nationalities and ages. On average there is a pretty even split between 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 (or 7 on our Family Trips), as long as you are fit, healthy and passionate about travel, we are happy to take you, whatever your age is. One of the wonderful aspects of group travel is the camaraderie and friendships that are formed along the way, and the variety of people that you will meet.

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### 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 Cuzco and during the Inca Treks. This means a group starting a trip in Cuzco will embark on the Inca Trail at the same time as a group finishing in or travelling through Cuzco. In practical terms this means there could be more than 22 group members in Cuzco and on the Inca Trail at the same time.

Please note that there is also 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 a group starting their trip there. In practical terms this means there could be more than 22 group members in Zanzibar at the same time.

Please also note that on some departures there may be more than one truck doing the same route. This means that you will be in the same hotel or campsite as another Dragoman group on some days. To ensure that you are not always at the same place at the same time as another group, your itinerary will most likely be slightly altered from the itinerary advertised in these trip notes.

## **Our Crew and Guides**

Our crew are passionate about travel and are always up for adventure. It takes someone special to become a Dragoman leader. Our crew undergo the most intensive training program of all the overland companies, spending 8 weeks learning the ropes at our base in Suffolk, UK, and then up to 6 months on the road as a trainee. Our crew are trained to manage and operate the trip safely and efficiently and their duties include: planning the trip according to the itinerary, driving and maintaining the truck, securing services of local guides, general logistics, health and safety, liaising with bureaucracy, dealing with issues where needed and offering advice and support to our customers. In addition they have a basic knowledge of the places visited and will be able to offer suggestions of things to do and see. Dragoman endeavours to provide the services of experienced crew, however, due to the seasonality of travel, situations may arise where your tour leader is new to a particular region or training other crew, new to the area.

On all Dragoman overlanding trips, we usually have 2 western crew but please be aware that there may be times when one crew member has to leave the trip due to unforeseen circumstances such as visa issues, illness of a group member, etc. On some of our trips we have 1 western crew and 1 local driver instead of 2 western crew. On trips south of Nairobi 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.

On the majority of our trips in Ethiopia, Sudan, Central Asia, China and South East Asia, in addition to our crew we will have a local guide on board who will travel with us for the entire duration of our time within one country. In these cases, the local guide becomes a third crew member and is able to offer their local knowledge as well as an insight into their country and the lives of the local people.

In most other areas of Africa, the Americas, India and Turkey, in addition to our crew we will employ local guides in specific locations of interest (for just a few hours up to a few days).

Your crew have a duty of care to all members of the group and therefore they have the authority to ask you to leave the trip if you require serious medical assistance, you 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.

## **Accommodation on Tour**

Dragoman's overland trips are designed for shared accommodation, whether camping or staying in hotels or hostels, and therefore do not involve a single supplement. Whilst our crew will do their best to accommodate couples travelling together in twin rooms, all our travellers should expect to stay in multi-share accommodation when staying in hostels, gers or yurts.

The type, variety and standard of accommodation will vary greatly depending on what options are available at the time; hotels can vary from very basic rooms without electricity or running water to high

standard hotels with good facilities! Generally in hotels most rooms will be single sex, twin-share, but in South America many rooms are triple/quad-share. Hostels, gers and yurts are nearly always multi-share and may be mixed sex.

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 wild camp away from the tourist crowds. Occasionally on some of our trips we are able to stay in villages or local homestays allowing us to get close to the indigenous population and ensuring that our money stays within the local community.

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## The Kitty

In addition to the trip price on our overlanding trips, you will also be required to pay a kitty specified for your trip (please note that there is no kitty on our Family Trips). The kitty is payable in installments at the start of each section of the trip for combination trips, and in full at the start of the trip for individual trips. Each customer joining a trip pays their kitty into a central fund. The fund is managed by the Dragoman crew and the kitty accounts can be viewed by all throughout the trip.

The kitty covers all things that the whole group does, such as:

- Hotel accommodation and campsite fees
- Meals whilst camping (not whilst staying in hotels)
- Activities listed as included (e.g. National Park or historical site entrances, excursions, etc.)

The kitty system is unique to overlanding and allows us to have flexibility and transparency on our trips. You can see exactly how your money is being spent and ensure that you are getting the best value by buying locally. It also helps to keep the costs competitive and save on administration costs so that we can pass the saving on to you. Dragoman makes NO PROFIT on kitties, as they are the group's fund. If there is money left in the kitty at the end of your trip, then this is divided between the group and you receive a refund.

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. We constantly update the kitty prices on our website and the kitty advertised in the brochure is an estimate at the time of printing. Prices can go up or down with no notice, and exchange rate fluctuations will affect costs.

The kitty is payable in full at the start of your trip (in instalments at the start of each individual trip on combination trips). Alternatively you can pay in advance via a bank transfer 3-4 weeks before the start of your trip - please see [http://www.dragoman.com/files/Kitty\\_doc\\_v10.pdf](http://www.dragoman.com/files/Kitty_doc_v10.pdf) for more details - this information sheet will also be sent in your booking confirmation upon booking a trip and can be found on [www.dragoman.com/overlanding/planning-your-trip/money](http://www.dragoman.com/overlanding/planning-your-trip/money). Please also note that prepayment is not available for our trips to West Africa, Iran, Tajikistan and any trip in Africa north of Nairobi.

If you are bringing the kitty out in cash, please ensure your USD notes (EUR notes if your trip goes through West Africa) are clean and undamaged and **no more than 8 years old**. If needed, your tour leader will be able to accept some of the kitty in local currency, and they will let you know the exchange rate locally. In most destinations you can withdraw local currencies from ATM machines, using either a cash passport or a credit/debit card. However, please bear in mind that most cards have a maximum withdrawal amount per day, local ATMs may run out of cash, and your bank could block the card despite you warning them of your travel plans, so it could be impractical to try to get the entire kitty out from an ATM.

We cannot accept traveller's cheques on our trips.

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## Meals and Group Participation

On an overland journey you are more than just an individual passenger - you're part of the team. You are

expected to pitch in to set up camp, shop for food, cook and generally help out. As part of your trip you will be assigned a truck job which could be collecting water and firewood, sweeping out the truck, loading the back locker, etc. While camping on overland journeys, the meals are included in the kitty. This means that you will have to work together to cook for everyone in your group. You will be divided into smaller units of 3-4 people and take it in turns to cook for the whole group according to a rota system. When it is your group's turn to cook you will have to plan the meal, shop for the ingredients in local markets or supermarkets and then prepare the meal for the whole group. The secret to cooking for 20+ people using a basic camping kitchen is to keep it simple! (On trips south of Nairobi we have a cook on board the truck; however you will still be required to help them to prepare meals).

An example of a typical camp breakfast might be toast with spreads, fruit and cereal as well as tea and coffee. When time allows it will also be possible to serve something hot such as eggs or pancakes. Lunch is almost always a sandwich heaped high with healthy salad and assorted fillings, with fruit to follow. Dinner might be a BBQ, risotto or 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.

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## Dietary Requirements

If you have any dietary requirements please tell us at the time of booking and tell your crew at your welcome meeting. Our crew will try to cater for any particular dietary requirement or food intolerance whenever possible. However, it must be remembered that it may not always be possible and the variety of dishes may be severely limited in comparison to those available to others. If there is anything in particular you require in your diet, that you would miss from home, or because of an allergy would miss out on, it would be best to bring this with you. Depending on your particular requirements, you may need to allow yourself some extra spending money to allow you to purchase extra food items.

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## Itineraries

Our itineraries are developed and published with the best of intentions, however travel in more remote areas of the world is unpredictable – borders can close, there can be extreme adverse weather, strikes or maybe mechanical issues that affect the running of your trip, but equally due to the nature of our trips we can often spontaneously include a local festival or event into the itinerary. This being said, the safety of our passengers, leaders and operators is a priority for us. 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. We make operational decisions based on informed advice from a number of sources, including the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office travel advice, reports from other travel companies and local suppliers, leaders' reports from off the road and local contacts we have built up over many years of experience.

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## British Foreign Office Travel Advice and Warnings

Dragoman follows the British Foreign Office Travel advice when deciding where and where we are unable to travel. We will base our decisions on itineraries and alterations to published routes based on their advice rather than the advice of other governments. We will advise you of any significant changes in advice before travel or whilst you are overseas.

However, we recommend you check the latest travel advisories from your own government for the country you are travelling to before you book and prior to departure. If there are any travel warnings present for the region you will travel to, as well as considering whether you are happy to travel despite the warning you must also check to ensure that it is not invalidating your travel insurance. Here are a few useful addresses:

UK - [www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice](http://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice)

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

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

United States - <https://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/country.html>

Canada - [http://www.voyage.gc.ca/countries\\_pays/menu-eng.asp](http://www.voyage.gc.ca/countries_pays/menu-eng.asp)

We also recommend that you check out the UK Travel Aware website before you travel at <https://travelaware.campaign.gov.uk/>. This website offers straightforward travel advice, top tips, and up-to-date country information to help you plan a safe trip.

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## Health

You need to be in good physical health in order to participate fully in our trips. When selecting your trip please make sure you have read through the itinerary carefully and assessed your ability to cope with our style of travel. To help you assess if this trip is suitable, please refer to the physical rating. The ratings for each trip are a good indication of how challenging they are and in some cases you should be prepared for some long driving days and possibly limited facilities. We are always happy to give extra advice if you have additional concerns. Please note that if, in the opinion of our leader, you are unable to complete the itinerary without undue risk to yourself and/or the rest of the group, Dragoman reserves the right to exclude you from all or part of the trip without a refund.

You should consult your doctor for up-to-date medical travel information prior to travel, particularly if you have a pre-existing medical condition. You must also declare any pre-existing medical conditions to your travel insurers upon purchase and provide evidence to us prior to departure that your pre-existing medical condition has been declared to your insurers. Failure to do so will mean that you are unable to join the trip.

## Extreme Environments

There may be periods of time within your trip when you meet extreme conditions, such as extreme heat, extreme wind, extreme cold, extreme humidity, extreme altitude, extreme crowds etc. Whilst our crew will let you know at the time when you are likely to meet these conditions, please ensure that you have read through the trip notes carefully and researched the local weather conditions at the time and that you feel that you are fit enough to cope with these conditions. If you have any doubts at all, please contact us to discuss your concerns prior to booking, and when on trip, if you find that the local conditions are causing you concern at any time, please be sure to let your trip leader know so that appropriate precautions can be discussed.

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## Altitude

Some pre-existing medical conditions are known to severely worsen at high altitude and be difficult to adequately treat on the ground, leading to more serious consequences. It is imperative that you discuss your pre-existing medical condition/s with your doctor. We understand certain medications are reported to aid acclimatising to high altitude; please discuss these options with your doctor. For trips that travel to areas of high altitude, the tour leader will issue you with a self-assessment altitude questionnaire which allows you to monitor how you are coping with the altitude and informs you of danger signals so that you can report these as soon as possible, either to the tour leader or a medical professional.

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## Yellow Fever

A valid international certificate of vaccination against Yellow Fever is required in many countries. You may need to present this on arrival at the airport or border crossing. Some countries will refuse entry if you are unable to present your certificate. It's also quite common for your home country to request a Yellow Fever certificate on your arrival back home.

It is your responsibility to check with your doctor well in advance of leaving home about the Yellow Fever requirements for the countries you'll be visiting.

## Malaria & other mosquito-borne diseases

There is a risk of contracting malaria in some areas which we travel through. If your trip goes to a areas with malaria it is always best to get expert advice before travelling about the types of malaria pills



available, whether they are recommended, and take any that are prescribed as instructed. Consult your GP or travel clinic for the most up-to-date requirements.

Other mosquito-borne diseases such as yellow fever, dengue fever, chikungunya and Zika are continuing to spread and are becoming a bigger problem around the world. Mosquito bite prevention is vital to avoid contracting any of these diseases, as there are no vaccines or specific treatments available. Health professionals have issued warnings for pregnant women travelling to areas affected by the Zika virus. For more information about Zika please visit:

- WHO: [www.who.int/en/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/zika-virus](http://www.who.int/en/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/zika-virus)
- Center for Disease Control and Prevention: [www.cdc.gov/zika](http://www.cdc.gov/zika)

The Anopheles mosquitoes that transmit malaria usually bite between the hours of dusk and dawn, whereas the Aedes mosquitoes that transmit yellow fever, dengue fever, chikungunya and Zika bite both during the day and the night. To prevent being bitten, it is recommended to cover up by wearing long-legged and long-sleeved clothing, preferably light-coloured and buttoned at the wrists. Do not sleep without closing your windows, tent door, etc. and use a mosquito net in hotels or if sleeping outside where there are mosquitoes present. Use mosquito repellent applied directly to your skin or soaked into your clothing. Treating clothes and mosquito nets with a Permethrin solution also provides significant protection. It should be available at most travel stores. Mosquito coils are useful on still nights and in hotel rooms, but cannot be used inside the tents. For more advice on how to avoid bites please see: [www.travelhealthpro.org.uk/factsheet/38/insect-and-tick-bite-avoidance](http://www.travelhealthpro.org.uk/factsheet/38/insect-and-tick-bite-avoidance)

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## Vaccinations

Recommended vaccinations and other health protections vary according to different regions and recent bulletins issued by health authorities. It is essential to get the latest specific health advice on the regions and countries you are planning to travel in, so please check with either your doctor or travel clinic in good time before you travel. The following websites are also a helpful resource: [www.nathnac.net](http://www.nathnac.net) and [www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk](http://www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk)

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. You will receive a 10% discount off all vaccinations given at Nomad Travel clinics.

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## Safety & Security

At Dragoman your safety is of paramount importance and we will do our best to ensure that your travel with us is safe and trouble-free, but we do ask that you take that little bit of extra care whilst you are away and to understand about the nature of this style of travel.

Of course we want you to have an enjoyable time, but you must also remember that part of the enjoyment of travel is experiencing a different way of life and cultures. This may also mean experiencing different safety and hygiene standards than those you are normally used to.

Therefore, please take note of the following safety tips and follow any local safety advice or briefings delivered by our crew or any third-party suppliers we use during your trip.

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## Transport Safety

- Our own vehicles have fully-fitted seat belts; make sure you always belt up.
- If you find a safety belt inoperable or missing on one of our vehicles, please inform the crew immediately.
- Unfortunately, we cannot guarantee that other vehicles we may use or recommend in some countries will be fitted with seat belts on every seat as it is not a legal requirement in much of the world.
- Please remain seated on board vehicles at all times when the vehicle is in motion.
- Never place luggage in the aisles or foot wells.

- Ensure you know where your nearest Emergency exit is; this may be a designated emergency exit, a window, a door, or a roof hatch.
- Check the location of the fire extinguisher and first aid kit.
- Follow any safety instructions provided by the crew/driver.
- Our vehicles are fitted with roof seats which can be used in certain conditions, such as when driving at low speeds, off main tarmac roads, etc. The roof hatches can only be opened and the roof seats used with the express permission of the crew and you must never sit in the roof seats without seat belts.

## Road Safety

- Traffic in some countries travels on the opposite side of the road to what you may be used to, so ensure you look both ways before crossing the road.
- In many countries vehicles do not automatically stop at crossings and driving styles may be very unpredictable, so please remain very vigilant when near roads and vehicles.
- Crash helmets are often not provided with mopeds and motorbikes overseas – we do not recommend you hire these vehicles.

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## Fire & Other Safety - Hostels/Hotels/Homestays

- Ensure you know where your nearest fire exit is and check to ensure that it is operative.
- Check the location of the nearest fire extinguisher.
- Study the fire instructions in your room if available.
- Identify how to raise the alarm if a fire occurs.
- If a fire occurs, leave immediately; do not stop to collect your effects.
- Proceed to an assembly point well away from the building.
- Electrics in hotels in many of the places that we visit will not be up to the same standards as at home. Please ensure that you check rooms, especially bathrooms and are aware of any issues that look unsafe. If in doubt inform the crew who will endeavour to sort the situation out if possible.
- Staircases and stairwells are often built to a very different design than under western building standards. There may be no guard rails, be excessively steep, have dangerous gaps between the stairs and the wall, etc. At all times be aware and take appropriate and prudent care.
- We often stay in homestays and farmstays. These may range from a traditional yurt through to a tree house or a town house. As these are traditional homes, they may well not adhere to our western standards of safety and so it is important that you make yourself aware of potential risks.
- If in doubt please inform the crew of any safety issues with the hotels/hostels or homestays.

## Fire Safety - Campsites

- Ensure you know where the nearest source of water or fire extinguisher is.
- Know how to raise the alarm.
- Extinguish all camping fires fully before retiring to bed.
- Observe any regulations regarding fires and bushfires in dry conditions.
- Identify how to raise the alarm if a fire occurs.
- If a fire occurs, leave immediately; do not stop to collect your effects.
- Proceed to an assembly point away from the tented accommodation/affected campsite.

## Other Campsite Safety & Security

- Familiarise yourself with the campsite and any known hazards.
- Group the tents around our vehicle wherever possible.
- No open flames, smoking or flammable liquids in or near the tents.
- Ensure the cooking area is well away from the tents.
- Ensure all water for cooking and drinking is purified first.
- Ensure any soil toilets are a minimum of 50m away from the tents and the cooking area.
- All food waste should be burned or buried a minimum of 100m away from the site.

- Ensure local advice is followed concerning any wildlife in the area.
- Keep valuables locked in the vehicle.
- Be aware of any local security issues that might be important.
- Do not set out tents close to perimeter fences which may be a security risk.
- Be aware of the security arrangements and local guards for campsite and if in doubt ask them where and where not to pitch tents.
- If in doubt please inform the crew of any safety issues with campsite.
- When wild camping, ensure that you do not wander away from the camp alone. If you do leave camp, ensure that you have notified the leader or other members of the group.

## Food Safety

- Make sure your food has been thoroughly cooked.
- Hot food should be hot, cold food should be cold.
- Avoid any uncooked food, except fruit and vegetables (notably those you can peel or shell yourself).
- In many countries you should only drink bottled water or purified water and ensure any seal is intact when purchasing bottles.
- On the Dragoman vehicles we have a tank of drinking water that is kept purified by the crew.
- Avoid ice in drinks as this can cause upset stomachs in hot climates.
- Make sure you wash your hands in antibacterial product when preparing and/or eating food.
- Many of the restaurants that you will eat in, either as a group or as individuals, will NOT have the same standards of food hygiene as we have in the western world. Unfortunately this is a reality of life in these regions. Therefore please think carefully about where you eat, what food you order and be aware of the risks.

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## Personal Safety

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. 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. We have come up with a few pointers that we recommend you follow:

- Follow the crew's specific safety advice in each destination.
- Always remain aware and vigilant, and stay away from situations where you do not feel comfortable.
- Avoid carrying too much money.
- Always avoid carrying your passport, driving licence, air tickets, and other valuable items around with you unless this is essential. Instead, keep valuables such as this locked away in the truck's safe, or the safety deposit box in the room or reception of the hotel/hostel.
- If you are carrying cash, cards or valuables, use a money belt or neck wallet which are more easily concealed and more difficult to pickpocket.
- Do not take any valuable jewellery, watches, etc. away with you in the first place.
- Avoid walking in poorly lit areas.
- If possible avoid walking around on your own; it is always safer to explore with others.
- Always try to walk with confidence and purpose, which will help you avoid looking like a lost tourist!
- Take special care when walking to avoid spraining or twisting your ankle on potholes, cobbles and uneven ground.

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## Activity Safety & Optional Activities

You will have the opportunity to take part in many exciting activities and excursions, some of which are included (e.g. hiking the Inca Trail, trekking to see Mountain Gorillas, visiting the Taj Mahal, etc.), whilst

others are optional (e.g. white water rafting in Uganda, zip-lining in Costa Rica, etc.). Some of these activities require a certain level of fitness, so it's important that you read through the trip notes thoroughly and make your own conclusions as to whether you feel that you are fit and healthy enough to enjoy this trip and its activities to their fullest.

Some activities may have higher risks than you are used to and you must judge whether or not you wish, or have the physical ability, to take part.

Please note that riding helmets are mandatory for all optional and included horse riding activities. This is an insurance requirement.

Optional activities mentioned by Dragoman are not included in the trip price or kitty, and do not form part of your contract with Dragoman. As such you accept that any assistance given by Dragoman crew members or local representatives in arranging optional activities does not render us liable for them in any way. The Dragoman crew are assisting you in arranging these activities for your added enjoyment whilst on your trip. The operators of these services and optional extras are local suppliers who contract directly with the client 'on the road', subject to and in accordance with their own terms and conditions. Dragoman accepts no liability for any action or activity undertaken by the client which is arranged independently of Dragoman while on tour. Crew may take part in an optional activity but do so as private individuals and not as company representatives.

Please use your own good judgement when selecting an activity in your free time.

Ensure that you use the appropriate equipment on optional activities, including life jackets, helmets, etc. This is especially important on activities such as horse riding, white-water rafting, etc.

Always ensure that your travel medical insurance covers you for all included and optional activities that you wish to participate in.

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## Included Activities

Included activities are listed in the day-to-day itinerary, all other activities are optional and at your own expense. If you choose not to participate in the included activities on this itinerary, the cost will not necessarily be refunded; this is something you will need to check with your leader.

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## Optional Activities

A selection of optional activities is listed in the day-to-day itinerary. This list is designed to be a helpful guide as to what is commonly available in each location, and is neither an exhaustive list, a guarantee that the activity is available, or an endorsement or recommendation. Please note that certain activities may not be available on your particular visit if they are overbooked, underbooked, out of season, or for any other reason - the list of activities is made according to our latest information and in the best faith, but please be aware that things may change between our last visit and your arrival. Please also note that it may not be possible to do all the activities listed in the time available at each destination, and it is recommended to give yourself extra time in your joining or ending city if you would like to participate in some optional activities there.

Prices listed are for entrance only and do not include transport costs to and from the sites or local guides unless indicated - again, these prices are displayed according to our latest information and in the best faith, but prices do fluctuate due to exchange rates, season, numbers of participants, and simple increases from the operator - any prices listed are a guide only and certainly cannot be guaranteed.

Optional activities are not necessarily endorsed or recommended by Dragoman nor included in the price of this trip. If you do any optional activities, you do so at your own risk and it must be clearly understood that your participation is your own decision and does not form part of your contract with Dragoman. You may be required to sign/complete a waiver form or optional activity form for some optional activities.

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## 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.

We recommend that any policy has a minimum medical (including repatriation) cover of £5,000,000. We recommend that any policy also has a minimum level of cover for Personal Liability of £2,000,000 and for Cancellation and Curtailment of £5,000 (or the full cost of your trip). Cover for loss of baggage, personal effects, money and other inclusions are down to personal choice although please bear in mind that personal effects are more likely to go missing whilst travelling and you should ensure that your policy is adequate to cover the value of your personal effects e.g. cameras, tablets, phones, ipods, etc. Please note that Dragoman is not responsible for your personal effects and is not insured for their loss. Please note that you should be insured for trip postponement or cancellation purposes immediately upon paying a deposit.

Whatever policy you choose, you must ensure that it is designed for adventure/overland travel and make sure it covers any activity that you intend to undertake (whether included or optional). As such it must cover you for adventure activities such as white water rafting, trekking, horse-riding, etc., and that the 24-hour Emergency Assistance Company must be experienced in handling situations in developing countries - for example, that they have the ability to arrange repatriation from remote areas such as the Sahara or if you were trekking in the Andes. On activities or side trips that are not recommended by us, please ensure you are happy with the safety of the activity before participating.

Please note that in the case of credit card travel insurance we will require details of the participating insurer, the insurance policy number and emergency contact number prior to travel rather than just the bank's name and credit card details. It is up to you to ensure that these policies have the cover you require, as many of these policies are not able to cope with adventure travel to remote areas and many are not valid for travelling outside your country of residence or outside the EU.

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## **Our Liability Insurance**

Dragoman has comprehensive passenger vehicle liability protection and tour operator insurance. These policies have total indemnities of £5,000,000 and £10,000,000 per incident respectively. This is in addition to local vehicle insurance and your personal travel insurance.

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## **Out of Office Hours Contact**

We have an out of office hours number you can call which should only be used once you have left your home country to start the trip 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 you can not get through please leave a message with you name, reference number, contact details and a message with the help that you need and we will get back to you.

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.

**Out of hours Number: +44 (0) 7985 106564**

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## **Luggage & Kit List**

Although you will not have to carry your main bag for 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 truck's back locker which will be inaccessible during a drive day, 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. Please be aware that due to the constant dust and vibrations your luggage bag will be subject to extreme wear and tear.

The size of baggage that can be brought on this tour is limited by the locker space on the truck. We recommend that your bag be no larger than a large rucksack with a capacity of about 80 litres

(approximately 70cm high, 40cm wide, and 40cm deep). The weight limit for luggage on all trucks is a maximum of 20kg.

Your 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 if your trip includes camping nights.

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 that even when it's warm during the day, it can often get cold at night, particularly in desert regions.

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

### **General**

- Sleeping bag, sleeping bag liner, sleeping mat and small pillow – if your trip includes camping nights
- Sandals or flip flops
- Comfortable walking shoes
- Sun hat and sunglasses
- Waterproof jacket
- Warm sweater or fleece
- Swimwear
- Comfortable travelling clothes and a set of casual but smart clothes for evenings out
- If visiting places of worship on the trip, men should bring a pair of full length trousers and women should bring a skirt that covers their knees and a scarf
- Towel – quick dry, lightweight travel towels are best
- Toiletries including bio degradable wet wipes, sanitary products, hand gel, sun cream and insect repellent
- Day pack – essential for keeping things handy when on the truck, on short hikes, walking around cities, etc
- Assorted dry bags – to protect your kit from dust and damp
- Pouch or money belt
- Water bottle (at least 1 litre) – we carry drinking water on all of our trucks and actively encourage our customers to use the water supplied. Whilst away from the truck we encourage the use of a filter water bottle and we are able to offer Dragoman customers a 25% discount on Water to Go bottles and filters using the code DRAGOMAN25 on the link <https://www.watertogo.eu/dragoman>
- Head torch with spare batteries and bulbs
- Camera with spare battery and extra memory cards
- Electrical accessories such as charger, power bank, adapter, etc
- Carbon monoxide detector
- A good book, a diary or notebook and pen, a fun game for travel days
- Personal medical kit – see notes below

### **Cold weather**

For trips going through mountainous areas, deserts, high altitude regions and Patagonia, you should be prepared for cold weather, especially at night. Ensure you bring:

- 3/4 or 4/5 season sleeping bag with liner – see note on sleeping bag ratings below
- Thermal base layers
- Winter jacket
- Hat, gloves and scarf
- Warm socks

### **Hot weather**

For trips going through tropical areas you should be prepared for hot and humid weather. Ensure you



bring:

- Loose fitting clothes with long sleeves and legs
- Mosquito repellent
- Mosquito net – not essential as our tents have mosquito netting but can be handy for hotels and hostels or sleeping under the stars

### **Trips with trekking**

For trips including treks, ensure you bring:

- Lightweight walking clothes suitable for the general climate
- Waterproof trousers
- Sturdy walking boots
- Walking stick(s) – not essential but can help in steep terrain; sticks can generally be hired or purchased en route

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### **Sleeping Bags**

A sleeping bag's rating typically indicates the lowest temperature at which it will keep the average sleeper warm enough to sustain them but not necessarily make them warm enough to feel comfortable. For example, with a 0°C bag, you should be able to stay in 0°C temperature but you will not necessarily be able to sleep comfortably.

For European sleeping bags there are the following standards:

- The upper limit is the highest temperature at which a 'standard' adult man is able to have a comfortable night's sleep without excess sweating.
- The comfort rating is based on a 'standard' adult woman having a comfortable night's sleep.
- The lower limit is based on the lowest temperature at which a 'standard' adult man is deemed to be able to have a comfortable night's sleep.
- The extreme rating is a survival-only rating for a 'standard' adult man. This is an extreme survival rating only and it is not advisable to rely on this rating for general use.

The transition zone, in between the comfort and lower temperature, is usually considered as the best purchase guideline.

### **Personal Medical Kit**

All of our trucks have a standard motorist's first aid kit on board for use in emergency situations only. The first aid kit is in compliance with UK standards for first aid provision within motor vehicles, and contain supplies to treat road side injuries. We do not carry prescription medications, 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 travel medical kits. They have been designed in conjunction with the truck kits and contain everything you would need for any minor incidents and health issues. For more details please visit their website:

**Global Survival Kit** - <http://www.nomadtravel.co.uk/p/2712/Global-Survival-Kit>

**Ultimate Medical Kit (POM)** - [http://www.nomadtravel.co.uk/p/2909/Ultimate-Medical-Kit-\(POM\)](http://www.nomadtravel.co.uk/p/2909/Ultimate-Medical-Kit-(POM))

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### **Passports**

Check that your passport will still be valid for 6 months after the end of your 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 as soon as possible -

however, please be aware that changing your passport can cause big problems if you need to apply for visas or permits (such as the Inca Trail or Gorilla Trekking) in advance.

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## Pre and Post Trip Accommodation and Airport Transfers

At Dragoman we believe you should make the most of the places you visit, so if you would like to see more of the 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 that 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.

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## Continuing Your Trip

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

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## 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 will be required to contribute the additional costs involved 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.

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## Responsible Tourism

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 from the link below:

<https://www.dragoman.com/about-us/responsible-travel/policy-and-guidelines>

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## Water

The sale of bottled water contributes to an enormous environmental problem around the world. In addition to the water in the bottle, the production of a 1 litre plastic bottle takes 2 litres 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 sterilised water stored in the purpose-built storage tank on 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 pocket!

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## Electrical Equipment

Your vehicle will be usually equipped with a 12-Volt socket, so to charge your iPod, MP3 player, camera, laptop and mobile phone you will need a DC 12V 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 adapter for your specific charger.

For mobile phones, please note that most countries in the Americas operate at 850 MHz and 1900 MHz which is not the same frequencies used in Europe, Africa, Asia and Australia. Most modern tri-band and quad-band mobile phones will be able to operate on these frequencies but please check your mobile phone specifications before travelling to ensure that you'll be able to use your phone in the Americas.

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## A Few Rules

It is one of our core values to treat all people we encounter with respect, including the local people who make our destinations so special. We have therefore set down a number of rules to which our customers must adhere.

Engaging in commercial or exploitative sexual activities, committing acts of violence or threatening violence towards local people, other group members or any member of our staff is not allowed. Any customer engaging in such activities will be required to leave the trip immediately with no refund of the trip price.

You must at all times comply with the laws, customs, foreign exchange and drug regulations of all countries visited and conduct yourself in accordance with our responsible travel policy. Any customer found contravening such laws or regulations will be required to leave the trip immediately with no refund of the trip price.

Although we are aware that in some parts of the world taking, carrying or selling drugs, carrying weapons, or engaging in commercial or exploitative sexual activities may be legal, it is not acceptable for Dragoman customers and our tour leaders have the right to ask you to leave the trip immediately with no refund of the trip price if you are found to be engaging in such activities.

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## 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](mailto: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.

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## 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 USD 1 to USD 4 per person per day, but check with your crew for an appropriate amount.

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## Feedback

After your travels, we want to hear from you! We rely on your feedback. We read it carefully. Feedback helps us to understand what we are doing well and what we could be doing better, and it allows us to make improvements for future travellers.

## COUNTRY SPECIFIC NOTES

### ZIMBABWE NOTE

Please note that due to a shortage of money in banks and ATMs in Zimbabwe, many ATMs are running dry of cash and some local banks are putting restrictions on international cards being used. It is also illegal to exit Zimbabwe with more than **USD1000** per person, so please make sure that you do not bring a greater amount than this out of Zimbabwe.

### ETHIOPIA NOTE

Please note that accommodation prices in Ethiopia may significantly increase during late December and January due to several national holidays surrounding Coptic Christmas; this may push the price of the kitty up an extra **USD50** per person. We will endeavour to negotiate and save money on the ground where possible, but please be aware that we are likely to need extra money in the kitty for trips over this time.

Please also note that we must keep a flexible itinerary in the Simien Mountains, as our options will largely be determined by the weather. The camping areas in the Simien Mountains National Park are very basic, and are essentially wild camps with long drop toilets. The food and provisions available in Debarq and the National Park are very limited, and it is also likely to be very cold at night (often dropping below freezing), so please be prepared by bringing suitably warm clothes, and a 4-season sleeping bag and sleeping mat.

### ZANZIBAR NOTE

Please note that there is an overlap in Zanzibar. This means a group starting a trip in Nairobi or Victoria Falls will visit Zanzibar at the same time as groups starting their trips in Zanzibar. This is so that any customers travelling all the way are not scheduled to go to Zanzibar twice - this means that in theory there could be up to 44 group members in Zanzibar at the same time, although in reality it is highly unlikely to be this many.

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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 21/08/2019