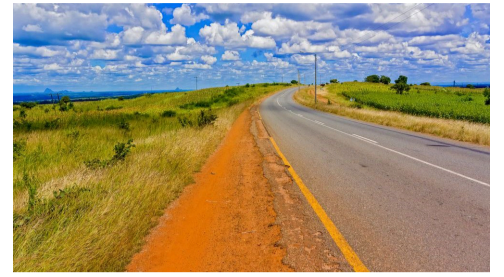




ETHIOPIA, GORILLAS & THE CAPE, (AGO)

Cape Town to Gondar 114 Days, departing 29th November 2021



TRIP OVERVIEW

Trip Style: Overlanding

Route: Cape Town to Gondar

Duration: 114 Days

Transport: Overland Expedition Vehicle, Jeep, Mokoro, Private Bus, Ferry, Canoe, Boat

Accommodation: Comfortable Hotel 26 nights
Camping 65 nights
Multishare Hostel 6 nights
Overnight Boat 1 night
Camping without facilities 8 nights
Basic Hotel 4 nights
Guesthouse 3 nights

Meals: Breakfasts x 103, Lunches x 73, Dinners x 73

Physical Challenge:

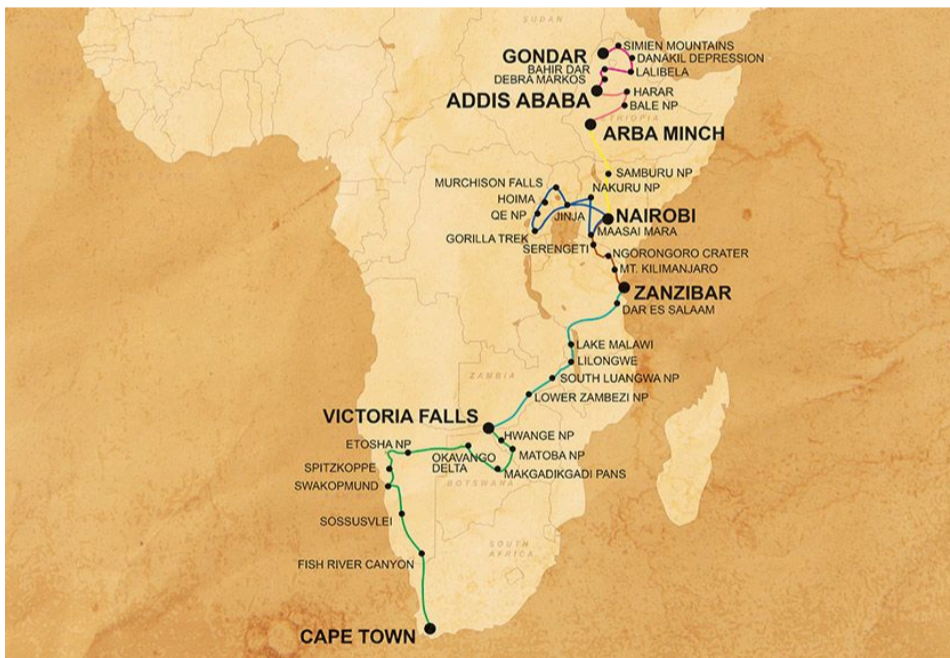


Depending on the trip, activities may include treks of 3-4 hours at altitude or across hilly terrain, multi-day treks at sea level, horseback riding, canoeing and other adventurous activities. A moderate level of fitness is required.

Lifestyle Challenge:



This is a trip for people with a real sense of adventure. You will be camping for the majority of the trip and the trip will include many long drive days and wild camps. The terrain may be very rough and the roads and facilities may be very basic or non-existent. The itinerary may be very flexible.



DAILY ITINERARY

Day 1 - Cape Town (29th November 2021)

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.

Accommodation: Once in Cape Town A'''

Daily Activities

Optional Activities

Cable car trip to the top of Table Mountain

One way ticket: 200 ZAR

Return ticket: 395 ZAR

Excursion to the former jail on Robben Island where Nelson Mandela was once imprisoned

Excursion: 280 ZAR

Visit the District Six Museum to learn about the old vibrant neighbourhood that was destroyed by the apartheid government in the 1960s

Entrance: 45 ZAR

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

Additional boat trip to Cape Seal colony: 60 ZAR

See the sights of Cape Town on a Hop On - Hop Off bus tour

1-day ticket: 200 ZAR

Day 2 - Citrusdal (30th November 2021)

Meals: Lunch, Dinner

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!

Daily Activities

Optional Activities

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

Price: 100 ZAR

Day 3 - Noordoewer (1st December 2021)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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.

Day 4 - Fish River Canyon (2nd December 2021)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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.

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Take in the jaw-dropping vistas at the Fish River Canyon

Included

Optional Activities

Head out on a short canoe trip on the Orange River which marks the boundary of Namibia and South Africa

Full-day Canoe trip incl packed lunch: 300 NAD

Day 5 - Sesriem (3rd December 2021)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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.

Day 6 - Solitaire (4th December 2021)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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.

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Visit the famous Dune 45 and explore the other-wordly landscapes of the Sossusvlei and the Dead Vlei salt pans

Included

Optional Activities

Take a balloon trip over the Namib desert and Dune 45

Price: 5,950 NAD

Go on a scenic flight over the Sossusvlei

1hr trip (price per plane, taking max 5 pax): 4,280 NAD

40min trip (price per plane, taking max 5 pax): 3,000 NAD
1hr 30min trip (price per plane, taking max 5 pax): 7,075 NAD

Guided walk through the landscapes of the Namib desert learning all about the delicate desert ecosystem
Price: 260 NAD

Day 7 - Swakopmund (5th December 2021)

Meals: Breakfast

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.

Day 8 - Swakopmund (6th December 2021)

Today we have free time for all of the amazing optional activities available in Swakopmund

Daily Activities

Optional Activities

Take a scenic flight over the Forbidden Coast and the Skeleton Coast

2 hrs: 150 USD
All day: 450 USD

Take a boat out for off-shore fishing in the seas near the Forbidden Coast

Offshore fishing trip: 1,200 NAD

Head out on horseback to explore the beautiful area around Swakopmund

2hr trip: 690 NAD

Head out sandboarding and quad-biking on the dunes near Swakopmund

2hr Quad-biking: 600 NAD
Lie-down Sandboarding: 400 NAD
Stand-up Sandboarding: 450 NAD
Combo Quad Biking and Sandboarding: 1,000 NAD

Explore the ocean by boat and search for dolphins seals and other marine life

Approx price, depends on numbers: 600 NAD

Explore the townships of Swakopmund meeting the local Damara Herero and Ovambo people

Price: 400 NAD

Learn about Namibia's marine life at the Swakopmund Aquarium

Entrance: 30 NAD

Go in search of dolphins on a sea kayak trip off the coast of Swakopmund

Scenic tour: 800 NAD

Learn all about the German colonial history of the area at the Swakopmund Museum

Entrance: 25 NAD

Tour to the Rossing Uranium mine: 40 NAD

Day 9 - Spitzkoppe (7th December 2021)

Meals: Lunch, Dinner

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.

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Visit the seal colony at Cape Cross

Included

Spend time exploring the area around Spitzkoppe (nicknamed the Matterhorn of Africa), a granite peak rising 1728 metres above sea level

Included

Optional Activities

Guided walk around the stunning landscape of Spitzkoppe

1-4 persons - NAD50pp/hour, 5-10 persons - NAD35pp/hour: 75 NAD

Day 10 - Etosha NP (8th December 2021)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today we head north to the stunning Etosha NP.

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 NP 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 NP, have excellent facilities and are situated next to watering holes where many animals come for a drink at night.

Day 11 - Etosha NP (9th December 2021)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today we will spend the day exploring Etosha on our truck

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Overland safari through Etosha National Park with excellent wildlife

Included

Day 12 - Grootfontein (10th December 2021)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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.

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Visit to the San Village project near Grootfontein

Included

Day 13 - Shakawe (11th December 2021)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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.

Day 14 - Okavango Delta (12th December 2021)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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. All food will be provided by our local hosts.

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Head on an unforgettable 3-day/2-night guided safari deep into the Okavango Delta including Mokoro trips and bushwalking safaris

Included

Day 15 - Okavango Delta (13th December 2021)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today we will explore the island on foot, and then take the mokoros out to a different island for more game walks, lunch, and then mokoro back to camp. Hopefully we will have the opportunity to swim in a safe area of the delta and have a try at poling the canoes ourselves! We will stay overnight at a houseboat.

Daily Activities

Optional Activities

Take a scenic flight over the Okavango Delta

6-seater plane: 105 USD

Day 16 - Makgadikgadi Pans (14th December 2021)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today we travel to the Makgadikgadi Pans NP.

Day 17 - Makgadikgadi Pans (15th December 2021)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today we will have the time for optional excursions into the Makgadikgadi Pans to see the incredible scenery and go in search of meerkats!

Daily Activities

Optional Activities

Take a guided walk around the immense baobab trees found in the area

Price: 35 USD

Visit and explore a local cattlepost village

Price: 80 USD

Guided trip to explore the salt pans

Ntwetwe Pan Expedition: 150 USD

Nxai Xini Pan Expedition: 120 USD

Day 18 - Bulawayo (16th December 2021)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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.

Day 19 - Bulawayo (17th December 2021)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today we will have an included day trip to explore the Matobo NP, 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.

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Full day guided tour of Matobo National Park including a visit to the grave of Cecil Rhodes to learn all about the colonial past of Southern Africa and a walking safari in search of White and Black Rhino

Included

Day 20 - Hwange NP (18th December 2021)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

After breakfast we head towards Hwange NP, 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 NP.

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Jeep safari in Hwange National Park

Included

Visit to the Painted Dog Conservation project near Hwange

Included

Day 21 - Kasane (19th December 2021)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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

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 NP.

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

Estimated Drive Time - 4 hours.

Day 22 - Victoria Falls (20th December 2021)

Meals: Breakfast

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.

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Take a boat trip to view Chobe National Park's prolific wildlife from the water

Included

Optional Activities

Head out on a safari in Chobe National Park in an open-top jeep

Jeep Safari: 280 BWP

Day 23 - Victoria Falls (21st December 2021)

Today 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.

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Visit to the incredible Victoria Falls

Included

Optional Activities

Bungee jump or swing from the bridge (111 m) over the Second Gorge of the Victoria Falls

Bridge Swing or Bungee Jump: 160 USD

Enjoy a relaxing canoeing trip on the River Zambezi

Price: 110 USD

Take a relaxing cruise on the Zambezi

Dinner Cruise: 90 USD

Sunset Cruise: 60 USD

See the incredible Victoria Falls from the air with a helicopter flight over the waterfalls

Long Flight (25 min): 294 USD

Short Flight (12-13 min): 162 USD

Horse riding along the scenic banks of the Zambezi

3 hrs: 85 USD

4-5 hrs: 125 USD

8 hrs: 155 USD

White water rafting on the Zambezi

Full day (high water): 140 USD

Full day (low water): 150 USD

Rafting and Riverboarding Combo: 203 USD

Take a guided walk to a local Matabele village

Price: 55 USD

Day 24 - Victoria Falls (22nd December 2021)

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.

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Visit to the incredible Victoria Falls

Included

Optional Activities

Bungee jump or swing from the bridge (111 m) over the Second Gorge of the Victoria Falls

Bridge Swing or Bungee Jump: 160 USD

White water rafting on the Zambezi

Full day (high water): 140 USD

Full day (low water): 150 USD

Rafting and Riverboarding Combo: 203 USD

See the incredible Victoria Falls from the air with a helicopter flight over the waterfalls

Long Flight (25 min): 294 USD

Short Flight (12-13 min): 162 USD

Take a relaxing cruise on the Zambezi

Dinner Cruise: 90 USD

Sunset Cruise: 60 USD

Day 25 - Livingstone (23rd December 2021)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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.

Daily Activities

Optional Activities

See the incredible Victoria Falls from the Zambian side

Entrance: 20 USD

Day 26 - Lower Zambezi Area (24th December 2021)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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.

Day 27 - Lower Zambezi Area (25th December 2021)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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!

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Spend 2 days and 2 nights on the Zambezi, travelling in canoes and wild camping on the islands - an experience of a lifetime!

Included

Day 28 - Lower Zambezi Area (26th December 2021)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today we have our second day out on the river. By now you will have a keen eye for wildlife and be well on your way to being a pro at paddling!

Day 29 - Luangwa River (27th December 2021)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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.

Day 30 - South Luangwa NP (28th December 2021)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today our journey continues to the stunning South Luangwa NP, 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.

South Luangwa NP 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.

Daily Activities

Included Activities

2 nights in South Luangwa National Park, known for its abundance of wildlife, with two included game drives

Included

Optional Activities

Optional extra evening game drive (if time allows)

Price: 40 USD

Day 31 - South Luangwa NP (29th December 2021)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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

Daily Activities

Optional Activities

Walking safaris in South Luangwa National Park

Optional upgrade to walking safari: 50 USD

Day 32 - Lilongwe (30th December 2021)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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.

Day 33 - Kande (31st December 2021)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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

Day 34 - Kande (1st January 2022)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today 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.

Daily Activities

Optional Activities

Guided walk and visit to a local Tonga village

Price: 10 USD

Horse Riding excursions in the forests and beaches near Lake Malawi

3hrs: 90 USD

Scuba dive, Lake Malawi

Price: 85 USD

Canoe hire to explore Lake Malawi from the water

Price: 10 USD

Snorkelling excursion to Lake Malawi

Price: 15 USD

Windsurfing on Lake Malawi

Price: 10 USD

Day 35 - Chitimba (2nd January 2022)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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!

Daily Activities

Optional Activities

Head out for a hike through Chitimba and surrounding areas

Day hike: 20 USD

Village walk around Chitimba

Village walk: 10 USD

Woodcarving lessons with the locals in Chitimba

Price: 10 USD

Day 36 - Iringa (3rd January 2022)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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 on a working ranch 52kms south of the town of Iringa.

Day 37 - Mikumi (4th January 2022)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today we will continue our journey north to the small village of Mikumi.

Day 38 - Zanzibar (5th January 2022)

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!

Day 39 - Zanzibar (6th January 2022)

Meals: Breakfast

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.

Day 40 - Zanzibar (7th January 2022)

Meals: Breakfast

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.

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Take a guided tour of the beautiful and historic streets of Zanzibar's Stone Town	Included
Guided tour of Spice Plantations and local lunch on the spice island of Zanzibar	Included

Day 41 - Zanzibar (8th January 2022)

Meals: Breakfast

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.

Daily Activities

Optional Activities

Head out on a boat trip out of Zanzibar in search of the local dolphins Beach activities: 30 USD
Explore the beautiful 'Prison' Island near Zanzibar Beach activities: 35 USD
Walk through the Jozani Forest in search of the very rare Red Colobus monkeys Tour: 40 USD
Scuba diving in the incredible waters of the Indian Ocean near Zanzibar (per dive) Beach activities: 55 USD
Go on a snorkelling trip in the turquoise waters off Zanzibar Snorkelling Trip: 40 USD
Enjoy a sunset trip in a traditional dhow Beach activities: 20 USD

Day 42 - Dar es Salaam (9th January 2022)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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 on the southern side of the bay across from the city.

Daily Activities

Optional Activities

Go on a full day fishing trip

Fishing trip (price per 4 pax): 220 USD

Sunset kayak trip to explore the mangroves near Dar es Salaam

Beach activities: 15 USD

Snorkelling and Sailing Experience

Beach activities: 35 USD

Learn all about Tanzania's history at the National Museum and the House of Culture

Museum entry: 6,500 TZS

Day 43 - Lushoto (10th January 2022)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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.

Daily Activities

Optional Activities

Half day trek out to the stunning Irete view point and community visit to the Irete villages

For the guide: 25 TZS

Day 44 - Arusha (11th January 2022)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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 NP. 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.

Daily Activities

Optional Activities

Take a short walk to a nearby Maasai village to learn all about the life and culture of the Maasai people

Camel ride to Maasai villages including visit to the Maasai cultural museum: 10 USD

Walk to the Maasai villages including visit to the Maasai cultural museum: 7 USD

Day 45 - Tarangire NP (12th January 2022)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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 NP, 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 (as there are no single use plastics or bottles available during this excursion), books and personal snacks, etc.

We will have a safety talk with our safari guides and then on to a day drive within Tarangire NP 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.

Daily Activities

Included Activities

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

Day 46 - Serengeti NP (13th January 2022)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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 NP. 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.

Day 47 - Serengeti NP (14th January 2022)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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.

Daily Activities

Optional Activities

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

Optional Balloon Safari: 700 USD

Day 48 - Arusha (15th January 2022)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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 NP (16th January 2022)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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

Today we will head to Amboseli NP. 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.

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Spend the afternoon out on a game drive hopefully witnessing the huge herds of elephants that roam here
Included

Day 50 - Nairobi (17th January 2022)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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!

Day 51 - Nairobi (18th January 2022)

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.

Daily Activities

Optional Activities

Visit the David Sheldrick animal orphanage

Entrance donations: 500 KES

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

Entrance: 10 USD

Visit the Langata Giraffe Centre in Nairobi

Entrance: 1,000 KES

Explore the museum at the site of the former home of Karen Blixen, the author of 'Out of Africa'

Entrance: 1,200 KES

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

Entrance: 1,200 KES

Head out on a guided safari walk in Nairobi National Park

Entrance and walk: 50 USD

Day 52 - Kericho (19th January 2022)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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

Day 53 - Jinja (20th January 2022)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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!

Day 54 - Jinja (21st January 2022)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today 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!

Daily Activities

Optional Activities

Go on a boat trip to discover the source of the Nile where the river outflows from Lake Victoria

1.5 hours: 20 USD

Head out horse riding along the banks of the White Nile

3 hours: 80 USD

Full Day rafting Jinja

Full day tour: 140 USD

Shoebill tour with the Ugandan Rhino Fund

Shoebill: 35 USD

Day 55 - Nakitoma (22nd January 2022)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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!

Daily Activities

Optional Activities

Bird watching tour in Ziwa searching for shoebills

3hrs: 35 USD

Nakitoma Ziwa Night Walk

Night Safari: 35 USD

Rhino tracking with the Ugandan Rhino Fund

2hrs: 45 USD

Day 56 - Kaniyo Pabidi (23rd January 2022)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today we continue to Kaniyo Pabidi in the Budongo Forest, in the southern part of the Murchison Falls NP. 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.

Daily Activities

Included Activities

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

Included

Day 57 - Murchison Falls NP (24th January 2022)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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 NP to reach our campsite.

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 NP 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 NP 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.

Day 58 - Murchison Falls NP (25th January 2022)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today, we will head out early in the truck for a included morning of game driving around the northern area of the NP - 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.

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Launch cruise on the River Nile to the mighty Murchison Falls

Included

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

Included

Day 59 - Mpanga Forest (26th January 2022)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

This morning we will make our way out of the NP 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.

Day 60 - Queen Elizabeth NP (27th January 2022)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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

During our time in the park we hope to see elephants, lions, leopards, buffaloes, Ugandan kobs and waterbucks.

Day 61 - Queen Elizabeth NP (28th January 2022)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

This morning we are up early to go on a full day game drive making our way to visit the volcanoes and salt mines on the edge of the park. We will experience areas of the NP that are impossible to reach without a full day's excursion!

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Safari in QEII National Park

Included

Optional Activities

Queen Elizabeth NP Night Safari

Cost per vehicle: 100 USD

Day 62 - Bwindi Impenetrable NP (29th January 2022)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today we prepare for our Gorilla tracking by heading to Bunyoni and taking jeeps up into the mountains of Bwindi.

Day 63 - Bwindi Impenetrable NP (30th January 2022)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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.

Daily Activities

Included Activities

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

Included

Day 64 - Lake Mburo (31st January 2022)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

This morning we will make our way into the stunning Lake Mburo NP. 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 Mburo.

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.

Daily Activities

Optional Activities

Boat trip on Lake Mburo

2 hours: 15 USD

Walking safari in Lake Mburo National Park

2 hours: 30 USD

Day 65 - Jinja (1st February 2022)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

After waking up in the beautiful Lake Mburo NP it is time to head back to Jinja and all of the comforts that it has to offer. You may even have time for an evening activity here.

Day 66 - Nakuru NP (2nd February 2022)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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

This is our base for tomorrow's excursion into Nakuru NP. 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.

Day 67 - Nakuru NP (3rd February 2022)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

This morning we head into Nakuru NP 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.

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Safari in Lake Nakuru National Park

Included

Optional Activities

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

Entrance: 5 USD

Day 68 - Masai Mara (4th February 2022)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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 and 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, sleeping mat, sleeping bag, 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 NP 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!

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Head out on a phenomenal safari in 4x4s into the Maasai Mara - one of the best areas in Africa for wildlife and scenery

Included

Day 69 - Masai Mara (5th February 2022)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today we will go out for the full day game driving in the NP before returning to our campsite for a second night. There is also the opportunity for a 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.

Daily Activities

Optional Activities

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.

Balloon: 595 USD

Day 70 - Nairobi (6th February 2022)

Meals: Breakfast

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.

Day 71 - Nairobi (7th February 2022)

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.

Daily Activities

Optional Activities

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

Entrance: 10 USD

Explore the museum at the site of the former home of Karen Blixen, the author of 'Out of Africa'

Entrance: 1,200 KES

Visit the Langata Giraffe Centre in Nairobi

Entrance: 1,000 KES

Head out on a guided safari walk in Nairobi National Park

Entrance and walk: 50 USD

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

Entrance: 1,200 KES

Day 72 - Naivasha (8th February 2022)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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.

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Naivasha Elsamere

Included

Day 73 - Naro Moru (9th February 2022)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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.

Day 74 - Naro Moru (10th February 2022)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today 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.

Day 75 - Samburu Village (11th February 2022)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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.

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Visit to Samburu tribal community and cultural project

Included

Day 76 - Samburu National Reserve (12th February 2022)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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 NPs further south, such as Grevy's zebras, Somali ostriches and gerenuk ('giraffe-necked antelopes').

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.

Day 77 - Moyale (13th February 2022)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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.

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

Day 78 - Konso (14th February 2022)

Meals: Breakfast

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.

Day 79 - Arba Minch (15th February 2022)

Meals: Breakfast

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.

Day 80 - Arba Minch (16th February 2022)

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.

Day 81 - Arba Minch (17th February 2022)

Meals: Breakfast

Today we have time for optional activities such as taking an optional boat trip on Lake Chamo to view the crocodiles that reside there (known locally as the crocodile market) or to take bike rides around the city.

Daily Activities

Optional Activities

Hire bicycles to explore the stunning surrounds of Arba Minch

Hire, Guide and Park fee: 400 ETB

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

Entrance: 300 ETB

Guide cost (per group): 200 ETB

Day 82 - Wendo Genet (18th February 2022)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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

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

During our stay here we may have time to explore the region, go on an optional walk to some nearby waterfalls, or take a dip in the nearby hot springs.

Daily Activities

Included Activities

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

Day 83 - Bale Mountains NP (19th February 2022)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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

We will enjoy 2 full days to explore the NP.

Day 84 - Bale Mountains NP (20th February 2022)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

We will keep today 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!

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Horse/mule treks or guided hikes through Bale Mountain National Park

Included

Day 85 - Bale Mountains NP (21st February 2022)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today 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.

Daily Activities

Included Activities

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

Day 86 - Lake Ziway (22nd February 2022)

Meals: Breakfast

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

Day 87 - Lake Ziway (23rd February 2022)

Meals: Breakfast

Today we will take an optional 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.

Daily Activities

Optional Activities

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

Tulo Gudo Island trip (price per 10 pax): 3,700 ETB

Monastery entrance: 1,000 ETB

Day 88 - Awash NP (24th February 2022)

Meals: Breakfast

In the morning we will leave early and head for Awash NP.

In the afternoon we will take a park scout out with us to explore the surrounding area and to try to find game or just to enjoy the stunning scenery of this lovely NP. We overnight in the lovely Awash Falls Lodge; who said luxury was not part of overlanding! This is a stunning place to experience a great little NP .

Daily Activities

Included Activities

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

Included

Day 89 - Harar (25th February 2022)

Meals: Breakfast

Today we will have a long drive east through the mountains to the ancient trading city of Harar.

Day 90 - Harar (26th February 2022)

Meals: Breakfast

Today 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.

Daily Activities

Included Activities

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

Included

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

Included

Day 91 - Harar (27th February 2022)

Meals: Breakfast

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.

Day 92 - Addis Ababa (28th February 2022)

Meals: Breakfast

Today we will have a long drive West through the mountains to the capital city, Addis Ababa

Day 93 - Addis Ababa (1st March 2022)

Meals: Breakfast

Today we have a free day in Addis Ababa and will organise an included guided tour of the city including visiting St. George's Cathedral, The Menelik mausoleum, The national Museum and the colourful city market.

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Enjoy a full day city tour of Addis Ababa

Included

Optional Activities

Visit Africa Hall - a symbol of African independence and optimism

Entrance: Free

Explore the fascinating Ethnological Museum one of the best museums in Africa set in a former palace of Haile Selassie

Entrance: 100 ETB

Visit the Menelik Mausoleum, built to serve as the tombs of emperors and princes

Entrance: Free

Stroll through the Addis Ababa Mercato - one of the largest markets in Africa

Entrance: Free

Visit the St. George's Cathedral (Giorgis Cathedral), built to commemorate Ethiopia's victory over the Italians in 1896

Entrance: 100 ETB

Visit "Lucy" one of the oldest complete hominid skeletons ever found at the National Museum

Entrance: 10 ETB

Day 94 - Addis Ababa (2nd March 2022)

Border Information: If joining in Addis Ababa, you will most likely enter Ethiopia at Addis Ababa Bole International Airport (IATA code: ADD).

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.

If you are travelling to the Sudan and have arranged to pick the visa up in Addis Ababa, you will need to arrive at least 2 working days early to collect the visa.

Please note that many of the options listed below will only be possible for those with extra time in Addis Ababa 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 Addis Ababa.

Daily Activities

Optional Activities

Visit the Menelik Mausoleum, built to serve as the tombs of emperors and princes

Entrance: Free

Visit "Lucy" one of the oldest complete hominid skeletons ever found at the National Museum

Entrance: 10 ETB

Visit Africa Hall - a symbol of African independence and optimism

Entrance: Free

Stroll through the Addis Ababa Mercato - one of the largest markets in Africa

Entrance: Free

Visit the St. George's Cathedral (Giorgis Cathedral), built to commemorate Ethiopia's victory over the Italians in 1896

Entrance: 100 ETB

Explore the fascinating Ethnological Museum one of the best museums in Africa set in a former palace of Haile Selassie

Entrance: 100 ETB

Day 95 - Debre Markos (3rd March 2022)

Meals: Breakfast

We will start our journey today with a drive to the small town of Debre Markos. En route we will drive to the bottom of the dramatic Blue Nile Gorge and up the other side!

Day 96 - Bahir Dar (4th March 2022)

Meals: Breakfast

Today we will complete our drive to Bahir Dar, a small town on Lake Tana, the source of the mighty Blue Nile.

Day 97 - Bahir Dar (5th March 2022)

Meals: Breakfast

On our first full day in Bahir Dar, we will have an included boat trip on Lake Tana to visit the famous old monastery of Gabriel Ure Kideth and to visit the spot where the lake outflows into the start of the Blue Nile.

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Boat trip on Lake Tana from Bahir Dar to visit the monasteries

Included

Day 98 - Bahir Dar (6th March 2022)

Meals: Breakfast

On our second day, we will head off in the truck to visit the Blue Nile Falls and take a short walk around the area to the historic Portuguese Bridge. We will have some free time in the afternoon to take optional visits to some other spots around Bahir Dar such as the 'Hippo bridge' and the Tigraw war memorial.

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Explore the stunning Blue Nile Falls just downstream of Bahir Dar

Included

Day 99 - Awra Amba (7th March 2022)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today we will drive to the ideological village of Awra Amba. Run by the infamous Zumra Nuru the village operates with the belief that everyone is equal and should have a say in how their home is run. We will take a tour of the village and camp on the outskirts.

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Visit the Utopian village of Awra Amba and see a place where all people are seen as equal

Included

Day 100 - Lalibela (8th March 2022)

Meals: Breakfast

Today we have a full day's drive through the beautiful scenery of central Ethiopia to reach the small medieval town of Lalibela.

Day 101 - Lalibela (9th March 2022)

Meals: Breakfast

On our first day in Lalibela, we will have an included full-day guided tour of the world-famous 13th-century rock churches of Lalibela. Our guide will be able to explain the fascinating history of Lalibela and its churches, and there will be plenty of time to explore, absorb the haunting atmosphere inside the churches, and take plenty of photographs of the incredible architecture and the religious rituals within.

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Guided tour of the ancient rock churches and monasteries at Lalibela

Included

Day 102 - Lalibela (10th March 2022)

Meals: Breakfast

On the second day, we will have a free day for further exploration or optional activities. We will have opportunity to hike up the nearby mountains to the Asheten Monastery, visit the Yemrehana Kristos cave church outside the town, or freely explore the Lalibela churches again at your own pace.

Daily Activities

Optional Activities

Take a tour to visit Yemrehana Krestos, an 11th-century stone and wood church, built in the Axumite style

Entrance: 300 ETB

Guiding for half day (cost per group): 100 ETB

Transport: 300 ETB

Explore the highlands of Lalibela on foot possibly walking to the nearby Asheten Monastery

Mule, Guide and Entrance: 500 ETB

Day 103 - Mekele (11th March 2022)

Meals: Breakfast

Leaving Lalibela behind us, we have a full days drive through increasingly mountainous scenery to reach the town of Mekele.

Day 104 - Danakil Depression (12th March 2022)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

After breakfast meet your 4 x 4 vehicles and drive to Hamed Ella. On the way you will pass through the beautiful Tigre Villages and the escarpment of the Afar depression, this is commonly known as the cradle of mankind and is part of the Great East African Rift Valley. Along the way you will see camel caravans going to the traditional salt mine or to the North Eastern highlands of the country, loaded with salt bars in the old traditional way. We will also stop at Brehalle where we will get our permits and scouts for the trip into the Danakil Depression.

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Journey out on an incredible 2 day/1 night excursion to the Danakil Depression

Included

Day 105 - Mekele (13th March 2022)

Meals: Breakfast

On the second day we drive to Dallol. Here in Dallol you will visit the beautiful land covered by salt, sulfur and different minerals that gives the area a spectacular colour. We will then continue on to Lake Asale to witness the beautiful salt flats.

This is an extremely intense environment and a very adventurous three days, certainly a once in a lifetime experience. However, if you feel like your personal fitness can not withstand this pressure then there is a chance this may not be the trip for you.

Today we will make our way back to Mekele ending our time in the stunning Danakil Depression.

Day 106 - Axum (14th March 2022)

Meals: Breakfast

Today we will visit one of the famous rock-hewn churches of Tigray (either the Abraha Atsbeha or Wukro Chirkos church), then continue through the increasingly breathtaking mountain scenery of the Adwa mountains to reach the ancient town of Axum in the far north of Ethiopia.

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Explore the Tigray rock-hewn churches at Mekele

Included

Day 107 - Axum (15th March 2022)

Meals: Breakfast

Today we will have an included half-day guided tour of the incredible historical sites of Axum, the capital of the once-mighty Axumite Empire - included in this tour will be seeing the Stelae Field, the Tomb of King Kaleb, and the Palace of the Queen of Sheba. We will have a free afternoon to make optional visits to other places such as the Church of St. Mary of Zion, the supposed resting place of the Ark of the Covenant.

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Guided tour of palaces and temples in historic Axum

Included

Optional Activities

Visit the Church of St Mary of Zion at Axum

Entrance: 200 ETB

Visit the ancient temple in Yeha, the oldest standing structure in Ethiopia

Entrance: 100 ETB

Day 108 - Debark (16th March 2022)

Meals: Breakfast

Leaving Axum behind us, we continue our journey with a full day of driving through the foothills of the Simien Mountains to reach the small village of Debark. The roads here are very tough, but we are rewarded with more truly breathtaking scenery!

Debark is the gateway to the Simien Mountains NP, and on arrival we will have a briefing from our local mountain guide explaining the various trekking options that we will have during our excursion starting the following day.

Day 109 - Simien Mountains NP (17th March 2022)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today marks the start of our 3-day excursion into the Simien Mountains NP. The area is home to some of Africa's most jaw-dropping mountain scenery and is a great opportunity to enjoy some incredibly beautiful treks and breathtaking views!

The area is also home many indigenous animals, and during our time here we hope to spot Lammargeyer vultures, geladas, Walia ibex, and (if we are very lucky) klipspringers and Ethiopian wolves.

We will spend 3 nights in the incredible Simien Mountains NP. On each day we aim to provide an option for a long trek (of 5-8 hours), a short trek (2-5 hours) or no trekking.

Please note that we must keep a flexible itinerary in the Simien Mountains, as our options will largely be determined by the weather.

Please also note that the camping areas in the NP are very basic, and are essentially wild camps with long drop toilets. Please also note that the food and provisions available in Debark and the NP are very limited, and it is also likely to be very cold at night (often dropping below freezing), so please be prepared! You will need to bring a suitable sleeping bag and mat with you from home to ensure you are ready for this environment.

Daily Activities

Included Activities

2 days of guided treks in the Simien Mountains National Park

Included

Day 110 - Simien Mountains NP (18th March 2022)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today we once again have the choice between joining a short trek or a long trek. Each one will have a guide and a superb route showing off the best the Simiens have to offer.

Day 111 - Simien Mountains NP (19th March 2022)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

This is our final day of trekking in the National Park. Once again there will be a choice between short and long routes as we soak in the final moments of the mountains.

Day 112 - Gondar (20th March 2022)

Meals: Breakfast

Today we head back out to the mountains to Debarq, and then finally join the tarmac road again to reach the ancient royal city of Gondar!

Day 113 - Gondar (21st March 2022)

Meals: Breakfast

Today, we will have an included half-day guided tour of the historical sites of Gondar, including Gondar Castle, the King Fasilades' Baths and the Debre Birhan Selassie church.

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Learn all about medieval Ethiopia on a half-day guided tour of the castles churches and baths of Gondar

Included

Optional Activities

Enjoy a tour of the local Dashen brewery in Gondar

Tour: 8 USD

Day 114 - Gondar (22nd March 2022)

Meals: Breakfast

Border Information: If you are finishing in Gondar, you will most likely exit Ethiopia at Gondar Atse Tewodros Airport (IATA code: GDQ).

Today is the end day for passengers finishing their trip in Gondar. Please note there is no accommodation included on the trip tonight - please contact the 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.

Accommodation:

ITINERARY DISCLAIMER

The routes, activities and places visited described in these notes are intentions and are meant as a rough guide only. By their very nature, overland itineraries need to be flexible and the regions that we are travelling through are often unpredictable. We intend to follow the planned route but exact night stops and inclusions cannot be guaranteed and 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. Changes to the itinerary may occur with little notice so please be prepared for modifications to your trip.

Drive Times

Drive times are listed in the day-to-day itinerary. These are the approximate number of hours that the vehicle will be in motion, 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.

Accommodation and Meals Included

The type of accommodation and included meals are listed for each day of the itinerary. These listings show our intention and on most departures the listings will be accurate. However due to the flexible nature of overland itineraries, climatic, bureaucratic or road conditions may demand changes to our listed intentions or groups may simply decide to amend the plans from time to time.

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. Certain activities may not be available on your particular visit and it may not be possible to do all the activities listed in the time available at each destination. 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. The 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, and therefore any prices listed are a guide only and cannot be guaranteed. If you partake in 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. For more information around activity safety and insurance, please see the Essential Information document.

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

In the event of a real emergency once you have left your home country, please contact us on our out of office hours number. If you cannot get through on the phone, please leave a message with your name, reference number, contact details and a message with the help that you need and we will get back to you. Please bear in mind that real progress or action may not be possible until normal office hours, depending on the issue.

If your flight is delayed, please inform us as soon as you can and then make your way to the joining hotel as instructed in the Joining Point section of these notes.

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

A FEW RULES

We expect all group members to act respectfully towards our staff and other group members. Bullying will not be tolerated.

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, or carrying weapons 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.

ISSUES ON THE TRIP

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

We recognise that there may be times when your group leader may not be able to resolve a situation to your satisfaction. If this is the case please contact our customer relations department on customer-relations@dragoman.co.uk.

You may also choose to provide details in your feedback questionnaire which we ask you to complete at the end of your trip, but we do ask you to be aware that it is very difficult for us to provide any practical help after the trip is complete.

IMPORTANT NOTES

OVERLANDING LIFESTYLE

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! For more details of how an overlanding trip works, please see the Essential Information document.

SAFETY STANDARDS

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. For more information, please see the Essential Information document

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE IN REMOTE AREAS

We will be travelling to areas in remote locations where medical assistance will not be available, and communications may be sparse. We do not carry satellite phones on our regular trips. Therefore, 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.

VISAS, HEALTH, INSURANCE & MONEY

Before you travel there are vital things to consider such as:

- Any visas needed for your trip
- Any vaccinations needed (please consult your GP or travel clinic)
- Organising your local payment (the kitty)
- Buying travel insurance (insurance is compulsory to be allowed to join our trips)

For more information on these topics, please see the Essential Information Document.

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 [download our AMS information sheet](#) or refer to the following website: www.high-altitude-medicine.com. If you are starting your trip in a destination above 2800m/9200ft we strongly advise reading this information prior to arrival. 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.

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 NOTES

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

1. Passport details at the time of booking
2. A non refundable trip deposit payment of GBP500 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%.

SOUTH AFRICA NOTES

ZIMBABWE 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.

NAMIBIA NOTES

BOTSWANA NOTES

TANZANIA NOTES

ZAMBIA NOTES

MALAWI NOTES

KENYA NOTES

UGANDA NOTES

ETHIOPIA NOTES

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 Debark 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.

Please ensure you have an up to date version of these notes. **These notes were printed on the 26th January 2021**