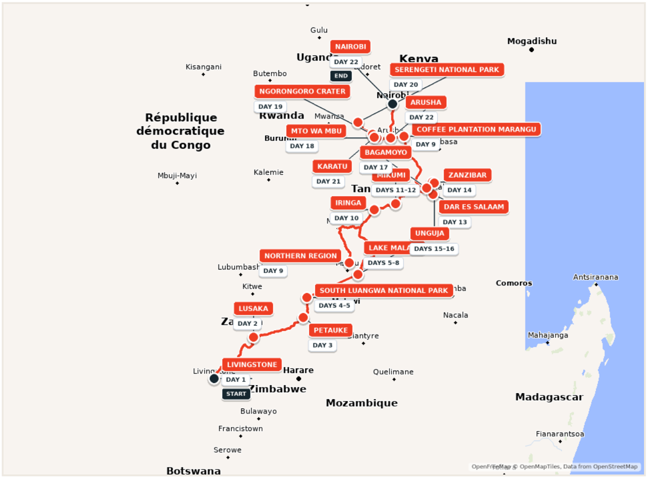
ENCOUNTERS TRAVEL

Your passport to adventure

East African Odyssey

COUNTRY(IES)	Kenya , Malawi , Zambia , Tanzania
TOUR TYPE	Overland
TRANSPORT	Overland expedition vehicle, 4x4 safari jeeps & ferry
GROUP SIZE	Min: 4 | Max: 20
DURATION	22 days
STARTS	Livingstone, Zambia
ENDS	Nairobi, Kenya
MEALS	Breakfasts - 21, Lunches - 20, Dinners - 19

TOUR ROUTE MAP **22 Days**



ROUTE: **Livingstone** (Start) → **Lusaka** → **Petauke** → **South Luangwa National Park** → **Lake Malawi** → **Coffee Plantation Marangu** → **Northern Region** → **Iringa** → **Mikumi** → **Dar Es Salaam** → **Zanzibar** → **Unguja** → **Bagamoyo** → **Mto Wa Mbu** → **Ngorongoro Crater** → **Serengeti National Park** → **Karatu** → **Arusha** → **Nairobi** (End)

HIGHLIGHTS

Victoria Falls, South Luangwa National Park, Lake Malawi, Diving & Snorkelling, Zanzibar, Serengeti National Park, Ngorongoro Crater

Itinerary

DAY 1 Livingstone to Lusaka

Travel by road from Livingstone to Lusaka and experience the change from the riverine surroundings of southern Zambia to the country’s capital. The journey passes through rural districts, settlements and agricultural areas before reaching the busier urban environment around Lusaka. No additional sightseeing is included, making this primarily a transfer day across a substantial section of the country.

ACTIVITIES

- **Drive from Livingstone to Lusaka**

  Travel early this morning from Livingstone to Lusaka, passing busy roadside markets, small villages and rural countryside. Arrive at Eureka Camp near Lusaka in time for a hearty meal and a tour briefing for the days

ahead.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS	EXTRAS
Eureka Camp	Lunch,Dinner	Single room supplement accommodated (TAOVAO)

DAY 2 Petauke

East of Lusaka, urban surroundings gradually give way to open countryside, agricultural land and small settlements on the route towards Petauke. A stop at Luangwa Market introduces local trading activity and the everyday rhythm of eastern Zambia. The journey provides a ground-level view of the country's rural landscapes and communities as the route moves away from the capital.

ACTIVITIES

- **Drive from Lusaka to Petauke**
  Depart Lusaka along the Great East Road towards Petauke, travelling through farmland and scattered settlements. This important highway links Zambia to Malawi and gives a real sense of everyday rural life.
- **Explore Luangwa Market**
  Stop at Luangwa Market, a lively roadside market filled with local produce and handmade crafts. Browse stalls selling fruits, snacks and curios and experience the energy of Zambian vendors at work.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS
Chimwemwe Executive Lodge	Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner

DAY 3 South Luangwa National Park

Travel from Petauke towards South Luangwa and watch the scenery change from farming areas to the more wooded landscapes around the park. A visit to Mulberry Mongoose introduces a local craft initiative using recovered snare wire and other materials. Continue onwards afterwards and reach the South Luangwa region, ready for the wildlife-focused activities that follow without adding any additional sightseeing en route.

ACTIVITIES

- **Drive from Petauke to South Luangwa National Park**
  Travel from Petauke to the South Luangwa region, heading towards the Luangwa River valley. Pass through Chipata and rural communities before arriving near the park boundary.
- **Curio Visit at Mulberry Mongoose**
  Visit the Mulberry Mongoose curio workshop where local artisans create jewellery and crafts inspired by the bush. Learn how snare wire and natural materials are transformed into unique handmade pieces that support conservation and community livelihoods.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS
Wildlife Camp or similar	Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner

DAY 4 Exploring the South Luangwa National Park

Join an evening game drive in South Luangwa and explore the park during the transition from daylight towards dusk. Wildlife activity can change as temperatures drop, creating opportunities for observation across riverine and open habitats, although no particular species can be guaranteed. The safari remains focused on the natural environment and the changing character of the park as evening approaches.

ACTIVITIES

- **Sunset Game Drive in South Luangwa National Park**
  Enjoy an afternoon and sunset game drive in South Luangwa National Park, one of Africa's premier wildlife areas. As daylight fades, search for nocturnal animals and listen to the sounds of the bush coming alive after dark.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS	EXTRAS
Wildlife Camp or similar	Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner	Options available while on tour (KEOVSS)

DAY 5 Zambia to Malawi

Travel from South Luangwa towards the Malawi border and complete the final overland section of the Zambian portion of the trip. The road passes through rural country and smaller communities on the approach to the frontier. No additional activities are included, allowing the day to remain focused on departure from the safari region and the transition into broader regional travel.

ACTIVITIES

- **Drive from South Luangwa National Park to Lake Malawi**
  Leave South Luangwa and travel east, crossing the border from Zambia into Malawi. Continue to the shores of Lake Malawi, where your lodge is set close to the water.

Lake Malawi Lakeshore Arrival

Travel into Malawi and continue towards the Lake Malawi shoreline, leaving the border region behind and approaching one of Africa’s largest freshwater lakes. The transfer introduces the surrounding villages and increasingly open views across the water without adding formal sightseeing. Arrival at the lakeshore provides a relaxed starting point for the cultural and leisure activities planned in the area over the following days.

ACTIVITIES

- **Explore Lake Malawi Shoreline**
  Arrive at the shores of Lake Malawi, one of Africa's Great Lakes. Enjoy the lakeside setting and your first views

across its vast expanse.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS
Ngala Beach Lodge or similar	Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner

DAY 6 Free time at Lake Malawi

Visit a community beside Lake Malawi and learn more about local traditions, everyday routines and life shaped by one of Africa’s great freshwater lakes. Afterwards, enjoy free time along the lakeshore and relax beside the water or explore independently. The combination provides both a closer connection with the people living around the lake and an unstructured period to appreciate the peaceful natural setting at your own pace.

ACTIVITIES

- **Malawi Village Tour in Lake Malawi**
  Visit a nearby Malawian village to meet local residents and gain insight into daily life by the lake. Learn about traditions, farming, fishing and crafts in this welcoming community.
- **Free Time in Lake Malawi**
  Spend the rest of the day relaxing at Lake Malawi, swimming or sunbathing on the beach. You can join optional activities offered by the lodge or simply unwind by the water.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS
Ngala Beach Lodge or similar	Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner

DAY 7 Sunset on the banks of Lake Malawi

Continue north beside Lake Malawi, passing changing lakeside scenery and small communities along the way. A village walk with the tour leader provides an opportunity to spend time in a local settlement and observe aspects of everyday life near the water. The activity adds a cultural element to the overland travel while the drive itself reveals the increasingly quiet landscapes of the northern lakeshore.

ACTIVITIES

- **Drive from Central Lake Malawi to North Lake Malawi**
  Travel north along the lakeshore from the central region of Lake Malawi to its northern shores. Pass small villages, fields and bays as you follow the shoreline.
- **Village Walk with the Tour Leader**
  Join your tour leader for a guided village walk near Chitimba at the northern end of Lake Malawi. Meet local people, see traditional homes and enjoy views of the lake and surrounding hills as the sun sets.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS
Chitimba	Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner

DAY 8 Cross into the Mbeya Region of Tanzania

Travel north along Lake Malawi towards the border and complete the last overland section within the country. The road continues through rural communities and alongside the broad freshwater lake before turning towards the frontier. No organised activities are included, allowing the final Malawian landscapes and lakeside settlements to provide the main interest as you prepare to continue into the next country.

ACTIVITIES

- **Drive from North Lake Malawi to Mbeya Region**
  Leave Lake Malawi behind and cross the border from Malawi into Tanzania. Continue to the Mbeya region and Utengule Coffee Lodge set in the highlands.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS
Utengule Coffee Lodge	Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner

DAY 9 Coffee plantation, Great Rift Valley

Spend time at a coffee plantation in northern Malawi and gain an introduction to local cultivation and the agricultural traditions of the region. Once the visit is complete, continue by road towards the border and begin the final departure from the country. The day combines a specific rural activity with onward travel, providing a quieter cultural finish after earlier lakeside and overland experiences.

ACTIVITIES

- **Visit a Coffee Plantation**
  Visit a local coffee plantation to see how coffee is grown, harvested and processed in the Tanzanian highlands. Sample freshly brewed coffee while learning about the work that goes into every cup.

Iringa Highlands Arrival Route

Travel north towards Iringa after entering Tanzania and watch the landscape change as the road climbs into the uplands. The area is characterised by cultivated valleys, rocky hills and cooler conditions than the lower regions travelled through earlier. No additional sightseeing is included, allowing the focus to remain on reaching Iringa and completing the overland connection into one of southern Tanzania’s principal towns.

ACTIVITIES

- **Drive from Northern Lake Malawi to Iringa**
  Travel up the Great Rift Valley and across southern Tanzania towards Iringa. The road passes through small towns and rolling countryside before reaching the escarpment above the Ruaha River Valley.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS
Kisolanza Farm or similar	Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner

DAY 10

Exploring the Mikumi National Park

Travel by road from Iringa to Mikumi and watch the terrain change as you move away from the elevated highlands. The journey descends through valleys and increasingly open country towards the plains around Mikumi National Park. This is primarily a transport day, with the surrounding scenery providing the main interest and no additional activities included before arrival in the wildlife region.

ACTIVITIES

- **Drive from Iringa to Mikumi**
  Depart Iringa and drive towards Mikumi National Park in central Tanzania. The route crosses miombo woodland and open plains on the edge of the park's wildlife areas.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS
Camp Bastian or similar	Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner

DAY 11

Mikumi

Spend the day at leisure in Mikumi with no included sightseeing or formal activities. The free period allows you to recover from travel, look around nearby areas independently or simply enjoy a quieter day before continuing. The setting close to southern Tanzania’s wildlife regions provides a natural backdrop, but no safari or wildlife activity is included unless separately specified elsewhere.

ACTIVITIES

- **Free Time in Mikumi**
  Enjoy a flexible day in the Mikumi area with the chance to book additional safaris or cultural tours. You can choose between more wildlife viewing or learning about local communities near the park.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS
Camp Bastian	Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner

DAY 12

Mikumi to Dar es Salaam

The long drive from Mikumi travels east through inland savannah, farmland and rural settlements towards Dar es Salaam. As the coast approaches, traffic and urban development gradually increase until the journey reaches Tanzania's largest city. The route provides a clear transition from quiet country landscapes to the busy atmosphere of a major Indian Ocean city and transport hub.

ACTIVITIES

- **Drive from Mikumi to Dar es Salaam**
  Leave Mikumi and travel southeast towards Dar es Salaam on the Indian Ocean coast. Pass through roadside settlements and farmland before entering Tanzania's largest city.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS
Golden Tulip Dar City Centre	Breakfast,Lunch

DAY 13 Ferry to Zanzibar

Travel by ferry from Dar es Salaam to Zanzibar and enjoy the sea crossing before arriving on the island. From the port, transfer to your hotel in Stone Town, where the compact streets and historic buildings reveal the strong Swahili and trading heritage of the old city. The straightforward transfer gives you an immediate introduction to Zanzibar before the main sightseeing begins.

ACTIVITIES

- **Travel from Ferry Dar es Salaam to Zanzibar**
  Take the ferry across the Indian Ocean from Dar es Salaam to Zanzibar Island. The crossing brings you to the historic and tropical “Spice Island”.
- **Drive from Zanzibar Ferry Port to Stone Town Hotel**
  On arrival in Zanzibar, transfer from the ferry port to your hotel in Stone Town. Settle into your accommodation in the historic quarter of the island's capital.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS
Maru Maru Hotel	Breakfast

DAY 14 Zanzibar Beaches

Explore two defining sides of Zanzibar with a spice tour and walking tour through Stone Town. Learn about the crops that shaped the island’s historic trade while moving through narrow streets, markets and architecture influenced by centuries of Swahili, Arab and Indian connections. Afterwards, leave Stone Town and travel towards Zanzibar Bay in Marumbi, where the surroundings become quieter and more coastal after the cultural focus of the morning.

ACTIVITIES

- **Spice Tour & Stone Town Walking Tour – Zanzibar**
  Join a guided Spice Tour and explore Stone Town’s narrow streets and markets. Visit working farms to see how spices are grown and enjoy a local lunch during the day.
- **Drive from Stone Town to Zanzibar Bay (Marumbi)**
  Travel by road from Stone Town across Zanzibar Island to the beach area near Marumbi. Arrive at Zanzibar Bay

to spend the next two nights by the sea.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS
Zanzibar Bay	Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner

DAY 15 Zanzibar Beaches

Spend the day at leisure around Zanzibar Bay with no included sightseeing or scheduled transfers. The free time can be used for rest, independent exploration or simply enjoying the coastal surroundings. The calm shoreline and resort setting provide a slower pace than the island’s busier cultural centres, creating an uncomplicated pause before the next planned stage of the trip.

ACTIVITIES

- **Free Time in Zanzibar Bay**
  Enjoy a full free day at Zanzibar Bay with time to relax on the beach or join optional ocean activities. You can swim, snorkel, dive, take boat trips or simply unwind under the palms.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS	EXTRAS
Zanzibar Bay	Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner	Options available while on tour (KEOVGP)

DAY 16 Back to Bagamoyo

The return ferry from Zanzibar reaches Dar es Salaam before the journey continues north along the mainland coast to Bagamoyo. This historic town has been shaped by centuries of trade, cultural exchange and maritime activity, providing a strong contrast with the energy of Dar es Salaam. Time in Bagamoyo offers an opportunity to explore an important part of Tanzania's coastal history.

ACTIVITIES

- **Travel from Ferry Zanzibar to Dar es Salaam**
  Return by ferry from Zanzibar Island to Dar es Salaam on the mainland. Watch the island recede as you cross the Zanzibar Channel back to the city.
- **Drive from Dar es Salaam to Bagamoyo**
  Rejoin your truck in Dar es Salaam and drive north along the coast to Bagamoyo. Arrive at this historic coastal town and settle into your lodge for the evening.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS
FireFly Lodge	Breakfast,Dinner

DAY 17

Through rural Tanzania to Moshi

Travel from Bagamoyo to Arusha on a long overland drive that crosses several distinct landscapes. Coastal humidity and lowland settlements gradually give way to open countryside and the cooler highlands of northern Tanzania. Reaching Arusha brings you to the foothills of Mount Meru and a city that serves as an important base for travel into the surrounding national parks and conservation areas.

ACTIVITIES

- **Drive from Bagamoyo to Arusha**
  Travel inland from Bagamoyo through rural Tanzania towards Arusha in the north. Pass scattered villages and farmland while approaching the region that hosts Tanzania's famous northern parks.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS
Njiro Legacy	Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner

DAY 18

Karatu

Leave Moshi behind and climb towards Karatu as the surroundings become greener and the air noticeably cooler. Although the distance to Karatu is relatively short, you will spend the majority of the day travelling closer to the Ngorongoro Crater, with cultivated slopes, rural settlements and volcanic landscapes accompanying the journey towards the Ngorongoro highlands and northern Tanzania’s wildlife country. Before reaching your destination, stop at the Mto wa Mbu Market in the charming village of Mto wa Mbu, renowned for its rice crops and unique red bananas and a vital gateway situated on the primary route to the Serengeti National Park and the Ngorongoro Crater Conservation Area. This evening, your guide provides a detailed briefing regarding the upcoming two-night excursion. The Mto wa Mbu Market is the included highlight, and accommodation is at a campsite with shared ablutions on the camping option or two per room with en-suite bathroom on the accommodated option.

ACTIVITIES

- **Explore Mto wa Mbu Market**
  Visit the colourful local market known for its rice, bananas and handicrafts. Experience daily village life and regional produce.
- **Drive from Moshi to Karatu**
  Depart Moshi and drive towards Karatu, a town on the edge of the Ngorongoro highlands. Enjoy views of rolling hills and rural landscapes as you gain altitude.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS
Kudu Camp or similar	Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner

DAY 19

Ngorongoro Crater & Serengeti National Park (Seronera)

Explore Ngorongoro Crater by safari vehicle before travelling onwards towards the central Serengeti. The game drive provides opportunities to observe wildlife within the enclosed caldera, although sightings remain naturally unpredictable. After leaving the crater, cross the highlands and continue towards Seronera as the landscape becomes progressively more open, bringing you into the grasslands of Serengeti National Park.

ACTIVITIES

- **Game Drive in Ngorongoro Crater**
  Spend the morning on safari across the crater floor, which holds an exceptionally high density of wildlife. Look out for zebra, wildebeest, elephants, lions and possibly rare black rhinos.
- **Drive from Ngorongoro Crater to Seronera (Serengeti)**
  After your crater game drive, continue by 4x4 across the highlands and into Serengeti National Park. Travel to the Seronera region, where your private tented camp is located among the plains.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS
Seronera Private Tented Camp	Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner

DAY 20

Serengeti Game Drive

Continue through the Serengeti with wildlife viewing en route before travelling south towards Karatu. Animals may be observed naturally across the plains, but no particular sightings are guaranteed. As the journey leaves the park, the road rises into the Ngorongoro highlands and passes increasingly settled countryside, ending in the cooler and more agricultural surroundings of Karatu.

ACTIVITIES

- **Serengeti Game Viewing En Route to in Camp**
  Enjoy game viewing in the Serengeti as you travel towards your campsite. This first taste of the park's wildlife sets the scene for the safaris to come.
- **Drive from Serengeti (Seronera) to Karatu**
  Depart the Serengeti and drive back towards Karatu, retracing part of your route through the highlands. Arrive in Karatu later in the day to relax and reflect on your safari experiences.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS
Seronera Private Tented Camp	Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner

DAY 21

To Arusha

The return drive from Karatu descends from the elevated farmland of the Ngorongoro highlands towards Arusha. Rural scenery, cultivated land and roadside activity accompany the journey, with Mount Meru forming part of the approach. The route provides a gradual transition from quieter highland landscapes back into the lively urban atmosphere of northern Tanzania's major safari hub.

ACTIVITIES

- **Drive from Karatu to Arusha**
  Leave Karatu and travel back to Arusha by road. Enjoy final views of rural northern Tanzania and the highlands as you return to the city.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS
Njiro Legacy	Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner

DAY 22

Arusha to Nairobi

Leave Arusha and travel north towards Nairobi, crossing from Tanzania into Kenya along the way. The drive takes you away from the highlands around Arusha and through open countryside towards the Kenyan capital, bringing the Tanzanian section of the trip to an end while continuing directly into the next country and its urban surroundings.

ACTIVITIES

- **Drive from Arusha to Nairobi**
  Travel from Arusha across the border into Kenya and continue to Nairobi. The drive takes you through Maasai country and busy roadside towns before reaching the Kenyan capital.

Nairobi Arrival and Tour Conclusion

Enter Kenya and continue towards Nairobi, watching the surroundings change from rural border landscapes to the busier urban environment of the capital. Arrival in the city marks the end of the organised journey after time spent across East Africa’s wildlife regions and varied landscapes. With no further scheduled activities included, the remaining arrangements are left open for onward travel or independent plans in Nairobi.

ACTIVITIES

- **Tour Ends in Nairobi**
  Finish your Gorillas & Plains Tour in Nairobi in the afternoon. Say farewell to your fellow travellers and prepare for your onward arrangements or an extra night in the city.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS	EXTRAS
N/A	Breakfast,Lunch	Departure airport transfer in Nairobi, Extra day in Nairobi - post-tour

INCLUDED

- 21 night's accommodation in hotels/lodges/guesthouses and camps
- All transport using our 25-seat expedition vehicle
- All 'included highlights' as mentioned in the itinerary
- 2 truck crew (driver/guide plus assistant/cook)
- Local guides for sightseeing tours and activities as per the itinerary
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary

EXCLUDED

- International Flights (available on request)
- Visa fees if required
- Travel insurance (compulsory, get a quote here)
- Meals not indicated in the itinerary
- Drinks, snacks and other personal expenses (e.g. laundry)
- Tips for guides & drivers
- Entrance fees and activities not mentioned above
- Any other items not mentioned above

Tour Options

Our tours are designed to include all that you need to enjoy a really special time in the destination you're visiting. However, we do also offer some extra options to complement the tour and add some additional sightseeing or activities, or some extra time at either end of the tour.

All accommodation based options (e.g. Single supplements, extra nights, cruise upgrades) should be booked and paid for in advance so that we can make the appropriate arrangements. Other options may either be booked and paid for in advance or while you are on the tour, though we recommend booking in advance to ensure there are no issues with availability.

Many options are priced the same throughout the year, but some may incur single or high season supplements , full details are given on the tour reservation form or on request.

Extra day in Nairobi - post-tour

Min numbers: 1

This option adds an extra day to the start of your tour, staying in the same hotel as the main tour itself (subject to availability). Airport transfers are not included, but are available as an additional option. Prices shown are per person and based on two people sharing.

Note: Single room and peak season supplements apply.

Extra day in Livingstone - pre-tour

Min numbers: 1

This option adds an extra day to the start of your tour, staying in the same hotel as the main tour itself (subject to availability). Airport transfers are not included, but are available as an additional option. Prices shown are per person and based on two people sharing.

Note: Single room and peak season supplements apply.

Arrival airport transfer in Victoria Falls

Min numbers: 1

This option adds an arrival airport transfer in Victoria Falls to your Overland tour with us. You will need to also book at least one night of pre-tour hotel accommodation with us in order to book this transfer.
Note: We subcontract our airport transfers, so your transfer representative will not have any information about your tour with us, or be able to assist you beyond the transfer itself.

Arrival Transfer in Livingstone

Min numbers: 1

This option adds an arrival airport transfer from Livingstone Airport to Livingstone Hotel to your Overland tour with us. You will need to also book at least one night of pre-tour hotel accommodation with us in order to book this transfer.

Note: We subcontract our airport transfers, so your transfer representative will not have any information about your tour with us, or be able to assist you beyond the transfer itself.

Historical Bridge Tour

Min numbers: 1

Journey through over 100 years of history on this engaging, theatrical, and educational tour. You will learn about the history of a remarkable structure, from its design and prefabrication in England to its construction in Africa. This engineering masterpiece was central to Cecil John Rhodes' vision of a "Cape to Cairo" railway, and its history is both entertaining and tragic.

Victoria Falls Helicopter Flight

Min numbers: 1

Experience an exhilarating 12-minute helicopter flight over the majestic waterfalls. You'll enjoy breathtaking aerial views of cascading water and the lush surroundings.

Victoria Falls Sunset Boat Cruise

Min numbers: 1

Enjoy a two-hour sunset boat cruise on the Zambezi River. You will be provided with local drinks and snacks during the trip. Please note that a park fee of $10 USD is not included and is payable on site.

Victoria Falls Guided Tour

Min numbers: 1

Explore the majestic Victoria Falls National Park, Zimbabwe, with a knowledgeable guide. This tour takes you to up to 16 different viewpoints, offering a comprehensive look at the falls.

Morning Game Drive in South Luangwa

Min numbers: 1

Join us for a 4-hour morning game drive in South Luangwa National Park. Running from 06:15 to 10:15, this safari includes complimentary tea and coffee to get you started.

Serengeti Hot Air Balloon Safari

Min numbers: 1

Experience the unforgettable magic of a hot air balloon flight over the vast plains of the Serengeti National Park. As the sun rises, you'll float silently above the iconic landscape, offering a unique perspective on the breathtaking scenery and the wildlife below.

Important Notes

1 Accommodation

We provide two options for the accommodation on this Overland tour, both available on the trip. Each option stays in the same place each night, just using a different level of accommodation. On some nights both options will use the same rooms or tents - please see the itinerary for details.

Camping: As the name suggests, the majority of your time will be spent camping. We include easily erected tents and camping mattresses; all you need to bring is a sleeping bag & towel (and pillow if you need one). Some nights spent in towns and cities may be spent in hotel or lodge rooms instead of camping - please see the itinerary for details. Prices are based on 2 sharing so if you are travelling as a single passenger you should expect to share a tent with another traveller of the same sex. During hotel stays, all couples will be given a private double room. Friends booking together will also share a room. Triple rooms are not generally available.

Accommodated: This level is designed to bridge the gap between a basic camping tour and an expensive lodge holiday. So, we use good quality hotels, lodges and camps rated at the local 2 to 4-star level, with the majority of rooms en-suite. In some places more basic properties with separate bathrooms, or permanent safari tents may be used. We aim always to use accommodation that is in keeping with the local area so there is a good variety. Local star ratings may vary slightly from international standards. Accommodation is based on twin or double rooms, chalets, bungalows or safari tents. All couples will be given a private double room. Friends booking together will also share a room.

Please check the Single Room Supplement option for details on room sharing options and charges for solo travellers on this tour.

Note - Accommodation providers are subject to change without notice. The properties listed are our preferred options, but sometimes due to availability or other issues with the property, we may substitute another property of similar standards.

Note - For the Serengeti camping excursion, the campsites we visit are fully owned by the Tanzania National Parks Board. Over 90,000 tourists visit the Serengeti National Park annually. These facilities are sadly not sufficiently

maintained by the Parks Board and while operators including ourselves have attempted to offer their services to improve the situation, these offers were not accepted. We do ask that you have an open mind when visiting the ablutions in the Serengeti National Park. Please supply your own wet wipes and toilet paper.

2 Destination Guides

Lusaka

Lusaka is the capital and largest city of Zambia. The two main languages spoken in Lusaka are English and Nyanja. It is located in the southern part of the central plateau of the country at an elevation of 1300 m and has a population of 3,100,000 (2007 estimate). With one of the fastest growing city centres in Africa, Lusaka is located in a productive farm area and is the administrative, financial and commercial centre of Zambia. It is thought that with proper and effective economic reforms, Lusaka as well as Zambia as a whole will develop considerably. Lusaka is home to a diverse community of foreigners, many of whom work in the aid industry as well as diplomats, representatives of religious organizations and some business people.

According to history, Lusaka was once the site of a village named after its headman Lusaka which was located at Manda Hill, near where the National Assembly building now stands. In the local Nyanja language, manda means graveyard. The area was expanded by European (mainly British) settlers in 1905 with the building of the railway. In 1935, due to its fairly central location on the railway and at the crossroads of the Great North Road and Great East Road, it was chosen to replace Livingstone as the capital of the British colony of Northern Rhodesia. After the federation of Northern and Southern Rhodesia in 1953, it was a centre of the independence movement which led to the creation the Republic of Zambia. In 1964 Zambia became the ninth African state to gain independence from the British crown and President Kaunda took power, with Lusaka as its capital.

Chipata

Chipata has a population of around 75,000 and is the capital of the Eastern Province of Zambia. Formerly known as Fort Jameson, the city is located near the border of Malawi on the highway connecting the capitals Lilongwe (130 km) and Lusaka (550 km). As we drive from Lilongwe to Chipita in Malawi there is a steady stream of people and transport bringing in supplies that are not always readily available elsewhere in Africa. You will also find colourful fruit & vegetable markets and an unexpected amount of ornate mosques due to its large Islamic Indian community.

South Luangwa National Park

South Luangwa National Park in eastern Zambia is a world-renowned wildlife haven, and famous for walking safaris. It supports large populations of Thorneycroft’s Giraffe, and herds of elephant and buffalo often several hundred strong, while the Luangwa River supports abundant crocodiles and hippopotamus. Founded as a game reserve in 1938, it became a national park in 1972 and now covers 9 050 square km.

Hippos thrive here due to the patches of flooded grassland habitats (floodplains) that are found close to the river, on which they graze at night. It is possible to see pods of up to 500 hippos in the dry season as the river shrinks and they are confined to areas of deep pools. On average there are probably 35 – 42 hippos per km! They are integral to the ecosystem here, their dung released into the river fertilises its waters and sustains the fish population which in turn sustains the crocodiles. The park is also reputed to have the highest concentration of leopard in Africa. It is estimated that there is one leopard for every km of river in the Luangwa Valley, so your chances of seeing this elusive nocturnal cat are very high.

Lake Malawi

The lake, third largest in Africa and eighth largest in the world, is situated between Malawi, Mozambique and Tanzania. The lake's tropical waters teem with more fish species than any other lake on earth and offers wonderful snorkelling and diving experiences. The fish also support the local people, who depend on the lake for survival, using dug-out canoes to set out long nets. There are many different ethnic groups living in the vicinity and many different dialects are spoken. Many are Christians, as a result of the numerous missionaries that passed through the area, while many have retained their traditional belief systems.

In 1859 David Livingstone reached Lake Malawi when he was trying to put an end to the slave trade. He then returned in 1861 accompanied by seven missionaries. They opened a mission station in the south lake area but suffered from malaria, illness and conflict with slavers. In 1864 the surviving missionaries withdrew to Zanzibar. Livingstone then returned to the region in 1866 as part of an expedition to find the source of the Nile. In 1869 he pushed north and was out of contact for two years. He was found by journalist Henry Stanley on the banks of Lake Tanganyika in 1871 and Stanley uttered the famous words “Dr Livingstone I presume”.

Livingstone continued on his mission and died at a village called Chitombo in Zambia in 1873. His death rekindled a desire in missionaries to come to Malawi and eventually, after setting up missions in various bad malaria areas, they set up a mission called Livingstonia in the highlands of the eastern escarpment (with no malaria). It is still in operation today and visitors can hike to the mission. The walk is quite strenuous and you should be reasonably fit especially if it’s hot. It’s about a 6 to 8-hour round trip.

Tanzania

Tanzania is mountainous in the northeast where Mount Kilimanjaro, Africa's highest freestanding mountain, is situated. To the north and west are the Great Lakes of Lake Victoria (Africa's largest lake) and Lake Tanganyika (Africa's deepest lake, known for its unique species of fish). Central Tanzania comprises a large plateau with plains and arable land. The eastern shore is hot and humid with the island of Zanzibar lying just offshore.

Tanzania has a tropical type of climate. In the highlands, temperatures range between 10˚C and 20˚C during cold and hot seasons respectively. The rest of the country has temperatures rarely falling lower than 20˚C. The hottest period extends between November and February (25˚C - 31˚C) while the coldest period occurs between May and August (15˚C - 20˚C).

Along the main highway artery that connects Dar es Salaam and Iringa, one travels through Baobab Valley. An endearing local saying goes that if you see a tree small enough to put your arms around, all your dreams and wishes will come true. Living up to its name, the valley is heavily populated by baobabs, one of the great symbols of Africa. This bizarre tree, known as the “upside down tree” is surrounded by myth and folklore, and has a multitude of uses for the local people and wildlife: the fruit is eaten; gum and fibre is made into rope, paper, and cloth; and bark and oil from the baobab seeds have medicinal properties.

Etosha National Park

Etosha, meaning “Great White Place”, is dominated by a massive mineral pan, part of the great Kalahari Basin. The Etosha pan, originally a lake fed by the Kunene River, covers about 5 000 square km, a quarter of the Etosha National Park. The lake dried up thousands of years ago and is now a dusty depression of salty clay which occasionally fills with the rare heavy rains. This temporary water supply stimulates the growth of algae which attracts wading birds and flamingos by their thousands. Large concentrations of wildlife gather year-round at the perennial springs on the edges of the pan. This amazing abundance of wildlife makes Etosha one of Southern

Africa's finest and most important game reserves. Covering an area of 22 270 square km, it is home to 114 mammal species, 340 bird species, 110 reptile species, 16 amphibian species and, surprisingly, one species of fish.

Dar es Salaam

Dar es Salaam (Arabic translation: “house of peace”), formerly Mzizima, is the largest city in Tanzania. With a population estimated around 2,500,000, it is also the country’s richest city and an important economic centre. Though Dar es Salaam lost its official status ascapital city to Dodoma in the mid-1970s, it remains the centre of the permanent central government and continues to serve as the capital for the surrounding Dar es Salaam Region.
In 1859, Albert Roscher of Hamburg became the first European to land in Mzizima (“healthy town”). In 1866 Sultan Seyyid Majid of Zanzibar gave it its present name. Dar es Salaam fell into decline after Majid’s death in 1870 but was revived in 1887, when the German East Africa Company established a station there. The town’s growth was facilitated by its role as the administrative and commercial centre of German East Africa and industrial expansion resulting from the construction of the Central Railway Line in the early 1900s.
Being situated so close to the equator and the warm Indian ocean, the city experiences generally tropical climatic conditions, typified by hot and humid weather throughout much of the year. Annual rainfall is approximately 1,100 mm and in a normal year there are two distinct rainy seasons: "the long rains", which fall during April and May and "the short rains", which fall during October and November.

Zanzibar

Zanzibar is a semi-autonomous part of the United Republic of Tanzania. It comprises the Zanzibar Archipelago in the Indian Ocean, 25–50 kilometres off the coast of the mainland and consists of a number of small islands and two large ones: Unguja (the main island, informally referred to as Zanzibar) and Pemba. Zanzibar was once a separate state with a long trading history within the Arab world; it united with Tanganyika to form Tanzania in 1964 and still enjoys a high degree of autonomy within the union. The capital of Zanzibar, located on the island of Unguja, is Zanzibar City and its historic centre, known as Stone Town, is a World Heritage Site.
Zanzibar’s main industries are spices, raffia and tourism. Zanzibar is also the home of the extremely endangered Red Colobus Monkey.The word “Zanzibar” probably derives from the Persian, Zangi-bar (“coast of the blacks”). However, the name could also have been derived from the Arabic Zayn Z’al Barr (“fair is this land”). “Zanzibar” often refers especially to Unguja Island and is sometimes referred to as the “Spice Islands,” though this term is more commonly associated with the Maluku Islands in Indonesia.
Some trivia: Zanzibar was the first region in Africa to introduce colour television, in 1973. The current TV-station is called TvZ. The first television service in mainland Tanzania was not introduced until some twenty years later.
The musician Farrokh Bulsara (a.k.a Freddie Mercury) of Queen was born in Unguja, Zanzibar on September 5, 1946 to Indian-Parsi parents, who were employed by the British colonial administration. There is a restaurant named ‘Mercury’s’ on the beachfront of Stone Town. In September 2006, a radical Islamic group on the archipelago, Uamsho, forced organizers to abandon plans to mark his 60th birthday, saying he violated Islam with his openly gay lifestyle. Zanzibar criminalized homosexuality in 2004 but despite this it remains a popular resort destination for the South African gay community.

Serengeti National Park

The Serengeti is most famous for the largest and longest overland migration in the world. This migration is one of the ten natural travel wonders of the world. Around October, nearly 2 million herbivores travel from the northern hills toward the southern plains, crossing the Mara River, in pursuit of the rains. In April, they then return to the

north through the west, once again crossing the Mara River. This phenomenon is sometimes called the Circular Migration. Over 250 000 wildebeest alone will die along the journey from Tanzania to Masai Mara Reserve in upper Kenya, a total of 800 km. Death is often caused by injury, exhaustion, or predation.

Approximately 70 larger mammals and some 500 avifauna species are found there. This high diversity in terms of species is a function of diverse habitats ranging from riverine forests, swamps, kopjes, grasslands and woodlands. Blue Wildebeests, gazelles, zebras and buffalos are some of the commonly found large mammals in the region.

The Ngorongoro area is part of the Serengeti ecosystem, and to the north-west it adjoins the Serengeti NP and is contiguous with the southern Serengeti plains. These plains also extend to the north into the unprotected Loliondo division and are kept open to wildlife through transhuman pastoralism practiced by Masai. The south and west of the area are volcanic highlands and the southern and eastern boundaries are approximately defined by the rim of the Great Rift Valley wall, which also prevents animal migration in these directions.

Arusha

Arusha is surrounded by some of Africa's most famous landscapes and national parks. Beautifully situated below Mount Meru on the eastern edge of the eastern branch of the Great Rift Valley, the city has a temperate climate due to its position on the slopes of Mount Meru. It is close to Serengeti, Ngorongoro Crater, Lake Manyara, Olduvai Gorge, Tarangire National Park, and Mount Kilimanjaro, as well as having its own Arusha National Park on Mount Meru.

The primary industry of the region is agriculture, with large vegetable and flower producers sending high-quality produce to Europe. Small-scale agriculture was badly affected by the coffee crisis of recent years and is now largely subsistence farming. Arusha has several factories including a brewery, tyre and fibreboard plant, and a large pharmaceuticals maker.

Nairobi

Nairobi is the capital and largest city in Kenya. The name "Nairobi" comes from the Masai phrase Enkare Nyirobi, which translates to "the place of cool waters". However, it is popularly known as the "Green City in the Sun" and is surrounded by several expanding villa suburbs.

Founded in 1899 as a simple rail depot on the railway linking Mombasa to Uganda, the town quickly grew to become the capital of British East Africa in 1907 and eventually the capital of a free Kenyan republic in 1963. During Kenya's colonial period, the city became a centre for the colony's coffee, tea and sisal industry. Nairobi is the most populated city in East Africa, with a current estimated population of about 3 million.

Nairobi is now one of the most prominent cities in Africa politically and financially. Home to many companies and organizations, including the United Nations Environment Programme and the UN Office in Africa, Nairobi is a hub for business and culture. The Nairobi Stock Exchange (NSE) is one of the largest in Africa, ranked fourth in terms of trading volume and capable of making 10 million trades a day. The Globalization and World Cities Study Group and Network (GaWC) defines Nairobi as a prominent social centre.

3 Group Size/Tour Leaders/Guides

We are committed to being a small group operator, as we feel this gives everyone in the group the best chance to get to know their fellow travellers and to hear and make the most of their guide. So, the expedition vehicles we use on our South & East Africa overland adventure tours have a maximum of 25 seats and on this tour will carry a maximum of 20 travellers.

In South & East Africa we provide fully trained, local English-speaking tour leaders, drivers and crew for all our tours. This tour will feature 2 crew – a driver, and tour leader. Between them they will help with the cooking, washing up, clearing away, cleaning of the truck etc. You may assist with this if you wish, and a limited amount of help is expected and appreciated (eg. Washing your own plates & cutlery) but you are not obliged to do any more than that unless you wish to. The tour leaders are not specialist licensed guides however, but during the tour we may also use a variety of local guides for activities and tours included in the itinerary.

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4 Serengeti Excursion and Local Options

On all our Overland tours we strive to strike a balance between including plenty of meals, tours and activities and being accessible and affordable.

The main tour price covers all your accommodation, transport, most meals and a range of tours and activities.

There are also some **Locally Available Options** on this tour. These have been chosen to give you more of a taste of what is available in the region and sometimes to offer an adrenaline rush during a relatively sedate tour. All these local options are offered and operated by professional local activity providers and Encounters Travel is not responsible for your booking or time while taking any of these options. Prices for these options may be given on our website, but please bear in mind that are given as a guide only and may very seasonally and can change from time to time. Availability is subject to seasonal daylight hours and our time-keeping that day.

Finally we also offer an optional **3-night camping excursion into the Serengeti National Par**k for those wishing to do more extensive wildlife viewing, but still on a budget.

Please check the Options section for more information and prices.

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5 Transport

This tour is run in conjunction with our local partners in South Africa. You will travel in one of their specially designed overland trucks throughout this tour, giving you a great vantage point from which to enjoy the scenery and incredible wildlife. Our professional and knowledgeable local guides will help to make your experience unforgettable and fun. The maximum number of people on this tour is 20 (the trucks have 25 seats)

The vehicles we use are amongst some of the finest on the road. However, do not forget the nature of an adventure tour. This is not a bus trip. Nor do we provide up-market tours. These are still tours aimed at the adventurous traveller. Though the vehicles are comfortable with large windows and great visibility, there are no onboard toilets or air-conditioning.

Each expedition vehicle is fitted with the following:

- Freezers to keep food fresh in the African heat.
- Individual seats with seat belts and ample leg-room
- Overhead luggage racks.
- Lockers for your backpacks (~35 cm square, 80cm deep)
- A safe for your valuables.
- A well-stocked first aid kit is on hand for emergencies.

- Reading material (fiction & field guides), games and recreational gear to keep you well entertained.
- I-pod/MP3 points
- Charging facilities for cameras, batteries etc
- PA System
- Kitchen and stove
- Water tank
- Cooler boxes
- Table for food preparation
- Hand-dishwashing facilities

Partaking in an adventure tour in Africa involves covering hundreds if not thousands of kilometres in a truck, and our tours are as much about this journey as they are about the destinations we visit. Use your time in the truck to talk to your fellow travellers, play card games, have a drink, walk around, take note of the world passing by your window and make the most of this unique opportunity to step out of your comfort zone.

Some roads you travel on will be smooth and easy while others could take up to an hour to cover 1 kilometre (though this is very rare on this route unless there has been extreme recent weather). There is just no telling what could happen with road, rainfall, traffic and other conditions that may exist that will either increase or decrease the amount of time you spend on the road so take your watch off, put your iPad away, turn off your phone and just relax. An average driving day could take anything from 4-5 up to the whole day. We will stop for shopping, bathroom breaks, photo stops, activities and a whole lot more. However, if you are looking to only experience specific destinations and are not interested in the journey, perhaps overland adventures are not for you.

Some game safaris are carried out using 4x4 jeeps/safari vehicles - see your tour itinerary for details. These may be open-roofed or enclosed. You must not leave the vehicle or lean out through windows without express permission from the guide.

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6 Booking & Payment

If you would like to book a place on this tour, please complete the online reservation form on our website (via the Dates & Prices tab on the tour page). You may make a deposit or full payment online, or just hold a reservation if you prefer (full payments are due 8 weeks before departure). We will then contact you with more details about how to complete your booking. Payments may be made by debit or credit card (subject to a card processing fee), or by making a bank transfer, or posting us a cheque/bank draft. Full details will be provided in your booking confirmation email. Please contact us if you would like any more information or have any questions before making a booking.

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7 Financial Security

We are a UK registered company and are committed to providing our customers with financial protection to provide peace of mind and to allow you to book with confidence.
We have therefore partnered with Trust My Travel Ltd., which provides financial protection services to over 2000 partners around the world. Funds paid to us by our customers are protected via an Insurance policy held by Trust My Travel. Each traveller and the description of services sold is declared against Trust My Travel’s insurance policy

directly against our financial failure. In the event of our insolvency, you will be refunded for any unfulfilled products and/or repatriation to the UK (where applicable). Please see our website or booking conditions for more information.

8 Responsible Tourism

It is impossible not to have an impact on the local environment, cultures and eco-systems when you travel. However, it is very possible to try and ensure that these impacts are as limited, or positive as possible. We are committed to ensuring that we try to leave our host countries in a better state than we found them and encourage and assist our travellers to help us with this.
The following are a few simple tips that require very little effort on your part but which will help ensure that any effect you have on the locations you visit is positive rather than negative.

- Don't prejudge: Things in different countries will almost certainly be different. That doesn't make them worse or inferior, just different.
- Communicate: Don't expect locals to speak your language. Take the trouble to learn a few words or phrases of the local language. Don't worry about sounding silly. Most locals are patient and accommodating and appreciate you making the effort to communicate in their language.
- Conserve energy: Be careful not to waste valuable resources. Use local resources sparingly. Switch off lights, air-conditioning and fans when you leave the hotel room and don't waste water. Remove superfluous packaging. Many countries have far less efficient waste disposal systems than ours. Remove packaging from newly acquired items before leaving home.
- Don't litter: No matter how untidy or dirty the country you're travelling in may look to you, avoid littering, as there is no need to add to the environment's stress. Many of the countries we visit have a tough challenge dealing with rubbish and waste. Please consider taking home as much plastic waste as you can (e.g. water bottles).
- Choose environmentally friendly products: By using environmentally friendly (bio degradable) sun creams, shampoos and detergents you can help reduce pollution.
- Respect local customs and traditions: As you are a guest in these countries, you should also comply with the local customs. If you are friendly and well mannered, the locals will reciprocate and it will only enhance your experience. It's important to follow dress and behaviour guidelines especially when visiting religious or sacred sites (your tour leader will advise you how best to do this).
- If a client commits an illegal act the client may be excluded from the tour and Encounters Travel shall cease to have responsibility to/for them. No refund will be given for any unused services.

All porters are employed and equipped following guidelines set by the International Porter Protection Group (IPPG).

9 Follow Us Online

You can stay in touch with us online by following us on Facebook and Twitter. We post updates on relevant travel news in our destination countries, special offers and discounts and other interesting travel related news and information.

www.facebook.com/encounterstravel

https://x.com/encounterstravl (yes, without the 'e')

10 Travel Insurance

Travel insurance is compulsory on all of our tours and needs to cover personal accident & liability, medical expenses and repatriation, travel delay & abandonment. We also strongly recommend that you take out cover against cancellation and lost/stolen baggage. Personal medical insurance does not normally provide sufficient cover and is generally not suitable for travel on our tours. You will not be able to join your tour if you have not provided us with details of your insurance or if you arrive without cover in place (no refunds will be due in this event).

Considering travel insurance for your trip? World Nomads Travel Insurance offers coverage for more than 150 adventure activities as well as emergency medical, lost luggage, trip cancellation and more.

If your tour includes car hire, or if you plan to arrange a hot air balloon flight locally or do some scuba diving during your tour, you should check the small print in your policy to make sure these are covered (these are covered in our policy). Please also check the maximum altitude that you will be reaching and that full cover including emergency evacuation is provided up to this altitude.

If you are taking expensive camera gear or other electronic equipment with you then please check the coverage and the fine print of your policy to ensure that you have sufficient cover.

IMPORTANT: We must have your travel insurance details (policy number and type of insurance) before you depart or you may not be allowed to join the tour. If you haven't told us already, please let us know the details when you can. You should take a paper copy of your insurance policy with you as you may be asked to show this at the start of the tour.

Covid-19

Before purchasing any travel insurance, please check the coverage provided for situations related to Covid-19, and for the rules about government travel advice. Your normal policy may not be suitable.

11 Before you travel

It is important when considering and preparing to travel anywhere in the world that you have a good understanding of the country you are visiting, its laws and customs, and the possible risks and situations that may occur. This includes specific risks related to your itinerary (eg. does it involve water & can you swim, are you fit enough for the activities included), as well as more general risks such as terrorism and natural disasters.

General details and links to more information about health risks, visa requirements, money, and travel insurance are given in these tour notes. We recommend that you re-read all these before your departure as well as the small print of your travel insurance policy so you know exactly what is covered and what is not.

You should take copies of your important travel documents with you and ideally also store them online securely as a backup. Make sure that you have given us your emergency contact details and told that person where and when you are travelling. Ensure you take enough money with you and that you have access to emergency funds.

Finally, you should read through and stay updated with the current official government travel advice for your destination. We are registered partners with the UK Foreign Office's 'Travel Aware' campaign which provides further useful and invaluable information.

travel aware
gov.uk/travelaware

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12 Reduce Plastic Waste with Water-to-Go Filter bottles

Traveling responsibly means minimizing plastic waste, but staying hydrated on the go is essential. At Encounters Travel we are committed to reducing single-use plastics, which is why we've partnered with Water-to-Go. Their portable filtration system removes over 99.9% of contaminants from any non-saltwater source, turning even questionable water sources into safe drinking water.

Given that tap water is un-safe to drink in many of the countries in which we operate, we recommend purchasing a Water-to-Go bottle prior to departure. This will help you avoid the use of single use plastic bottles and keep you hydrated on the go.

Save big! Get a huge 25% off your Water-to-Go bottle and other Water-to-Go products (such as filters, lids, and carriers). Use code **ENCOUNTERS25** at checkout (valid in the UK, USA and Canada).

How Water-to-Go Technology works:

- Their reusable, BPA free water bottles contain their own unique 3-in-1 filtration technology effectively providing clean safe drinking water from any non-salt water source around the world.
- Three different (1 traditional and 2 nano) technologies are combined in one filter cartridge to remove up to 99.9999% of microbiological contaminants in water.

The three technologies used in a Water-to-Go filter are:

- Mechanical filtration – A tiny pore size, so small contaminants can’t fit through.
- Electrical – A positive charge reduces the pore size even further and attracts contaminants like a magnet, trapping them inside the filter.
- Activated Carbon – Unlike most carbon based filters, instead of using adhesives to glue the carbon particles together, (which vastly reduces the carbon’s efficiency) it is contained within the membrane, helping to reduce contaminants whilst eliminating bad tastes and odours. Try filtering water from your tap at home and taste the difference!

Water-to-Go filter bottles deliver safe, healthy water worldwide

- Water-to-Go filters remove bacteria, viruses, waterborne disease, protozoa, heavy metals such as lead as well as harmful chemicals.
- Their filters remove Chlorine and Fluoride from tap water.
- The filter will eliminate harmful contaminants from the water but allow beneficial minerals such as sodium and magnesium to pass through leaving you with the healthiest water possible.

- Water-to-Go filters have been independently tested against internationally recognised standards by industry specialists including The London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (UK), BCS Laboratories (USA), Bangalore Test House (India) and IMI (China).

Use Water-to-Go products and you'll be healthier, wealthier and helping to make the world a better place!

- Depending on filter size, each Water-to-Go filter is able to replace 260 or 400 single-use plastic water bottles!
- They ensure you have access to safe water anywhere in the world without ever having to buy environmentally damaging bottled water.
- Their water bottles deliver safe, clean drinking water at just 5p per litre.
- The filter membrane is biodegradable and the shrouds are recyclable.
- The water bottles are used and approved by everyone from backpackers to commuters, gym users to expecting mums. Perfect for everyday, outdoor and travel.

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13 Private & Tailor-made Tours

While our group departures offer a fantastic way to explore with like-minded travellers, we understand that some guests prefer a more exclusive experience. Most of our group tours can be booked on a private basis, allowing you to enjoy the same expert-led routes with your own dedicated party. The primary advantage of choosing a private arrangement is the flexibility it provides; we can easily customise the itinerary to include your preferred style of accommodation or adjust the pace to suit your needs. Private tours can be run on the same start days as our group tours, or on other dates. However, some activities within our trips are restricted to particular days of the week - we will advise you on anything like this that we need to work around. Pricing will be based on the number of travellers in your party, and any customisations you may like to make.

For those seeking something truly unique, our specialist sales team is available to collaborate with you on a completely tailor-made tour, designed from the ground up to match your specific interests, accommodation level and requirements.

To request a quotation for a private or tailor-made tour, please contact us.

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14 Health and Vaccinations

You should ensure you are fully insured for medical emergencies including emergency evacuation and repatriation.

Recommended vaccinations and other health protection measures vary according to the country you are visiting and where you are travelling from. We recommend you contact your GP/medical practitioner or a travel clinic for current information on vaccinations needed for your destination. You should ensure that you are up to date with vaccines and boosters recommended for your normal life at home, including for example, vaccines required for occupational risk of exposure, lifestyle risks and underlying medical conditions. In addition, additional courses or boosters normally recommended for the countries in this region are:

South Africa: Additional vaccinations: Hepatitis A. Malaria map. Yellow Fever certificate: Required if arriving from or having transitted through an infected area.

Namibia: Additional vaccinations: Hepatitis A, Tetanus, Typhoid. Malaria map. Yellow Fever certificate: Required if arriving from an infected area.

Botswana: Additional vaccinations: Hepatitis A, Tetanus, Typhoid. Malaria map. Yellow Fever certificate: Required if arriving from or having transitted or travelled through an infected area.

Zimbabwe: Additional vaccinations: Hepatitis A, Tetanus, Typhoid. Malaria map. Yellow Fever certificate: Required if arriving from or having transitted through an infected area.

Zambia: Additional vaccinations: Hepatitis A, Tetanus, Typhoid. Malaria map. Yellow Fever certificate: Required if arriving from or having transitted through an infected area.

Malawi: Additional vaccinations: Hepatitis A, Tetanus, Typhoid. Malaria map. Yellow Fever certificate: Required if arriving from or having transitted through an infected area.

Tanzania: Additional vaccinations: Diphtheria, Hepatitis A, Tetanus, Typhoid. Malaria map. Yellow Fever certificate: Required if arriving from or having transitted through an infected area.

Kenya: Additional vaccinations: Diphtheria, Hepatitis A, Poliomyelitis, Tetanus, Typhoid. Malaria map. Yellow Fever certificate: Required if arriving from an infected area.

Uganda: Additional vaccinations: Diphtheria, Hepatitis A, Tetanus, Typhoid, Yellow Fever. Malaria map. Yellow Fever certificate: Required if arriving from an infected area.

Sudan: Additional vaccinations: Diphtheria, Hepatitis A, Tetanus, Typhoid, Yellow Fever. Malaria map. Yellow Fever certificate: Required if arriving from or having transitted through an infected area. A certificate may also be required for those departing Sudan.

Morocco: Additional vaccinations: Hepatitis A, Tetanus, Typhoid. Malaria not normally present. Yellow Fever certificate not required.

Tunisia: Additional vaccinations: Hepatitis A, Tetanus, Typhoid. Malaria not normally present. Yellow Fever certificate not required.

The above information can change at short notice. For up to date health information & vaccination requirements we recommend that you contact your medical practitioner or a travel clinic.

Malaria: Vaccinations are not available against Malaria, which is a disease transmitted by mosquitoes that can be very serious and sometimes fatal. You should avoid mosquito bites by covering up bare skin with clothing such as long sleeves and long trousers and applying insect repellents to exposed skin. When necessary, sleep under a mosquito net. Mosquitoes are most active during and after sunset. You should consult with your GP/medical practitioner/travel clinic about the most appropriate malaria prophylactic medication to take for the regions you are visiting.

Yellow Fever: This disease is spread by infected mosquitoes that bite during the day. A Yellow Fever Certificate of vacinnation is often required as a condition of entry depending on which country you are arriving from, or that you have travelled or transitted through recently (including connecting flights with stopovers of over 12 hours). You can view this US CDC information about where the virus is present and follow the links to further information detailing which countries need you to have a Yellow Fever vaccination as part of their entry requirements. Please ensure you have this certificate organised in advance and with you and to hand during the trip.

Please inform us of any pre-existing conditions such as diabetes or asthma and any prescription medicine you may be taking. We also need to know about any food allergies or physical disabilities that you may have.
If you are travelling on an Overland tour or your trip includes wildlife safaris then please bear in mind that you may be travelling on bumpy roads and/or rough ground for several hours at a time. This can be very uncomfortable or painful if you have a bad back, and make such conditions worse. Please contact us if you have any concerns.

Health Declaration: As many of our Africa tours travel through very remote regions, where medical facilities are limited, we are asking all of our travellers 65 years and over who are joining one of our Africa Overland Adventures to complete the attached medical questionnaire. The information provided to Encounters Travel and our local operational partners will be held to the strictest confidence and will be used only to the extent to provide necessary emergency medical care and/or evaluate physical health and fitness for travel.

We will request this from you approximately 30 days before your trip starts, so that your GP can sign your form based on your current health conditions. Please don't submit this several months in advance, as it is important for us to know you are fit for travel just before the trip departs.

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15 Passports and Visas

Passports should be valid for at least six months after your departure from the country. Please do not bring an almost full or almost expired passport. Visa arrangements are the responsibility of the traveller, and requirements are subject to change by the local authorities. Encounters Travel will not be held responsible if travellers are denied entry because they are not in possession of the relevant visas. We therefore recommend you re-check requirements with the relevant embassy/consulate around 4 weeks before travel.

You should also be in possession of a valid onward or return flight ticket, or proof of other means of transport enabling you to leave the country that your tour passes through or finishes in. In addition you should carry proof of sufficient funds to cover you during your time in the country (eg. credit card).

Should your tour be re-entering a country, please ensure that you have a multiple entry visa that allows this. Some countries have a visa on arrival service which can be more convenient and cheaper. However, for peace of mind and to speed up the border crossing process, Encounters Travel advises that you to get your visas prior to your trip if possible.

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16 What to take

LUGGAGE ALLOWANCES: Most international airlines restrict you to between 20kg and 23kg per person of luggage to go in the hold of the plane. Domestic flights often have smaller allowances around 15kg. As airline rules vary we recommend that you take no more than 20kg of luggage if your tour just includes international flights, and no more than 15kg if there are any domestic flights included in your itinerary. Please ask us for details if you are unsure about luggage allowances on your tour. Any excess baggage fees will be your responsibility to cover. Most airlines allow between 5kg and 10kg for hand luggage so we suggest that you take no more than 5kg unless you have confirmed that your airline(s) will allow more than this.

OVERLAND AND SAFARI TOURS: Please keep in mind that these are adventure tours in an adventure vehicle (truck or 4x4) and luggage should not include any solid Samsonite style suitcases. On our accommodated overland

tours most of our trucks have lockers for the luggage (locker sizes: 37,5 cm high, 32 cm wide, 80 cm deep). Only a soft bag will fit in these lockers. A suitcase is far more difficult to store and make secure in our vehicle and this is part of the reason we ask for a backpack or tote bag to be used as your luggage. The other reason is that you need to walk from the truck to the accommodation and often over sand or uneven terrain. Your luggage on our Overland tours is limited to ONE backpack and ONE daypack weighing no more than 20kg. As a general rule, if you cannot lift your own luggage - you've got too much stuff! Most people make the mistake of bringing too many clothes. A quick reminder - **suitcases are not suitable on our overland tours** – especially huge Samsonite-style cases! **Small** wheeled cases are OK for safari tours.

SUGGESTED PACKING LIST: Kit for all weather conditions including: • 2/3 shorts/skirts • 1 jacket/anorak • Tracksuit/pullover • 2 pairs of long pants/jeans • 2 pairs of walking shoes/boots/trainers • 1 pair of sandals • 3 or 4 T-shirts/short sleeve shirts or sundresses • 2/3 Long Sleeve Shirts • Smart casual change of clothes • Swimwear • Underwear & socks • Sun Hat – preferably that covers the back of your neck. • Raincoat • Kikoi/sarong

Your clothing should be easy to wash and dry and should preferably not need ironing. Avoid synthetics, which can be very uncomfortable in hot weather. Many people underestimate how cold Africa can be – remember that jersey/jacket! There are also nights that are warm but you must still wear clothes that cover arms and legs from mosquitoes. Take a set of casual but smart clothes for the occasional evening out in a restaurant or club. If you wear glasses (or contacts) it is also advisable to bring a spare pair.

While on wildlife safaris it is important to wear dull coloured clothing - olive, mushroom, brown, khaki, stone are ideal.
You should avoid white (stands out too much), black or blue (attracts tsetse flies), and camouflage (illegal in many countries for civilians)

Additional Items: • Towel & facecloth • Baby wipes/ Wet Wipes • Personal toiletries • Sleeping bag • Torch & enough spare batteries • Camera & spare batteries and memory cards • Water bottle. (A 2-litre Coke bottle works well...) • Penknife • Insect and Mosquito repellent • Suntan lotion, sun block & after sun lotion • Sunglasses • Watch • Biodegradable laundry detergent • Passport (plus a copy of your passport & visas) • Extra passport photos • Vaccination certificate • Money • Travel plug • Neck pillow • Small sewing kit • Plastic bags • Clothes line and pegs • Small scrubbing brush • a small padlock for your luggage locker in the truck • Small basic First Aid kit (painkillers, band aids, after-sun lotion, eye drops, anti-diarrhoea tablets etc.)

DAY PACKS: Please check the itinerary for your specific tour if you will need a little daypack. For example on our Cape Town to Vic Falls overland tour you will need a smaller bag, big enough to bring basic equipment (toiletries and clothes) for 2 nights. The daypack is for your Okavango Delta Excursion, where you cannot bring your entire luggage.

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17 Zanzibar Insurance Requirements

IMPORTANT INSURANCE INFORMATION FOR THOSE VISITING ZANZIBAR:

The Zanzibar Government have announced the introduction of a travel insurance policy which will be obligatory for

all foreign visitors to the islands, regardless of whether travellers have their own travel insurance in place.

1. The insurance policy is sold by Zanzibar Insurance Corporation.
2. The cost is US$44 per person.
3. The insurance requirement comes into force on 1st October 2024.
4. The policy must be purchased online at https://visitzanzibar.go.tz/ and purchases can be made from 1st September 2024.
5. Payment can be made online by debit or credit card.
6. On completion of the purchase, visitors will receive a QR code. The policy documents will be sent to your registered email address.
7. The policy document and QR code must be presented on in Zanzibar. Entry will be refused without this documentation.

To ensure you have a smooth entry, please ensure the above policy is purchased in advance of your arrival.

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18 International Flights and Airport Transfers

International Flights: We want to give you as much flexibility as possible when it comes to booking your holiday with us. So, to take account of people living in different places and with varying travel plans, except on some Escorted Tours and package promotions, we don't include your international flights in the main tour price. We are however very happy to suggest flights to go with the tour. Please contact us with your preferred dates and departure airport and we'll give you a selection of airlines, times and fares to choose from.

The vast majority of our tours are designed such that you can arrive and depart at any time on the first and last days of the set tour itinerary, with your arrival and departure airport transfers included in the tour price. However, on our **Overland tours,** you should not arrange your onward international flights or other travel for the day the tour is due to end (unless the final day does not involve any travelling and finishes after breakfast). Similarly, many of our Overland tours depart their first port of call on the first morning, and you will therefore need to plan for any flights to arrive at least one day beforehand.

Airport Transfers:

Arrival and departure airport transfers are included on most of our Small Group, Shoestring (excluding the 5 & 6-day Garden Route tours where Airport Transfers are not included, however a pickup from a Central Cape Town location is included on day 1 of the tour) and Tailor-made tours but available as extra options on all our African Overland tours, as long as you have accommodation booked with us on that day. If you add extra accommodation before and/or after the tour that you do not book with us, then you will also need to arrange your own airport transfers.

On our **Sebatana Package**, airport transfers for arrival and departure are included, however these transfers operate on a schedule, so a short wait may be required after landing before the transfer departs to the accommodation. To coincide with the transfer departures, your arrival flight should land in Johannesburg before 11am on day 1 and depart after 6pm on day 8. If your flights arrive/depart outside of these times, we would recommend adding an additional night to your trip.

Departure Taxes: Various countries may require that you pay an Airport Departure Tax when departing on an international flight. Please note that all departure taxes must be paid in hard cash currency and US Dollars are

normally the best currency to use for this. Departure taxes can vary from US$10 - US$60 depending on the departure point.

Flight inclusive packages: We do also sometimes advertise flight inclusive packages from selected airports. Where these are shown on our website, prices are correct at the time of quoting, but are subject to continued availability of the fare used. Prices will be reconfirmed at the time of booking, and we will also provide the flight times and airline details before tickets are issued.
Flight inclusive prices are based on the cheapest Economy ticket class available which is generally non-refundable and non-changeable unless the flight is cancelled for reasons such as Covid-19, in which case the airlines are more flexible. More flexible ticket options, as well as Premium Economy and Business Class tickets are available on request for an additional supplement. Any changes made to flight inclusive bookings will be subject to the airline rules on your ticket.

Flight CO2 Emissions:

Traveling by air is an amazing way to explore the world, but flights also contribute to carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions that impact the environment. By considering the airline's CO2 emissions when you choose your flight, you can help minimize your travel footprint.

When selecting your international flights and airline, we do therefore recommend that you try and also take into account the flight CO2 emissions. Some airlines and flight search websites (eg. Google Flights, Skyscanner) do publish this information, so you can compare between your flight options and make an informed decision. Thankfully, many airlines are working towards sustainability efforts, and choosing a greener option allows you to contribute to positive change while still enjoying your incredible adventure.

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19 Tipping

In general tipping in restaurants is expected and is around 10% for good service, more if you have received exceptional service, and, feel free not to tip at all if you received poor service. Tipping taxi drivers etc is really at your own discretion and not always expected. If in doubt please ask your guides. It is expected to tip porters and car guards etc. Ask your guides how much is appropriate in local currency. The recommended amount for Serengeti and Masai Mara guides is around USD5-7 per client per day.

Our guides do work hard but they are also paid at (and often above) industry levels for this work. Our Crew can be tipped if you feel that they have done a good job and/or gone above and beyond the call of duty. The best way to arrange tips is to elect one person in the group to collect the money. On Small Group & Shoestring tours we recommend around USD 3-5 per person per day per guide as a fair tip. On longer Overland tours we recommend USD1-2 per day per person, per guide as a fair tip. So if you have 2-crew on a tour, we would recommend that 2 envelopes are used and each crew member’s name written on one. Place what you feel is fair into each envelope and the elected person can give these to the crew at the end of the tour. If you do not feel that the crew deserve a tip, please, do not tip them. You must remember that tipping is only for exceptional service and is not at all compulsory or expected.

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20 Meals on Overland tours

Due to the nature of the overland trip, the majority of your meals will be cooked by our crew and eaten beside the vehicle. Meals will not normally be eaten within the accommodation. The reason we run our trips in this way is that we feel it fits in better with this type of trip and it also helps to keep our prices competitive with other companies offering similar tours.

Breakfast: As breakfast is served very early in the morning (if there is driving or activities to be done) it is a simple but filling breakfast: Tea and coffee, breads and spreads, cereals, yoghurts, fruits and on occasion, when there is time for a later breakfast, we'll will serve a hot breakfast of scrambled eggs, porridge, bacon or beans.

Lunch: Lunch is generally served at a picnic spot next to the road en route to a destination. As the tour leaders only have approximately 45 minutes to get everyone off the truck, prepare lunch and then get everyone back on the truck again, lunches consist of sandwiches and salads (rice salad, pasta salad, tuna salad and green salad) which are quick and easy to prepare but which are quite filling. They do have meal plans which they should stick to, to ensure that there is variety on a day to day basis.

Dinner: This is when your crew get time to prepare a delicious meal and they focus on a substantial protein, vegetable and carbohydrate dinner. We serve traditional cuisine consisting of braais (BBQ), potjie (stew), bobotie (mince), spaghetti and fish and chicken dishes. All meals (on both accommodated and camping tours) that are included in the itinerary are prepared at the full service adventure truck. This is a unique adventure in itself where you get to dine under the stars with your new found friends and experience the real sights and sounds of Africa!
