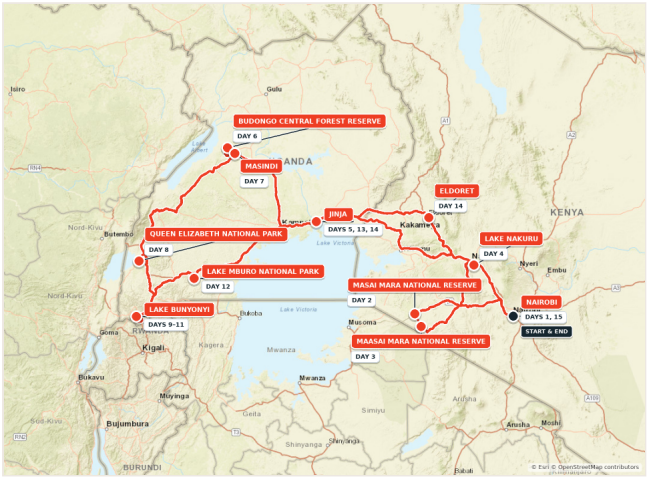
ENCOUNTERS TRAVEL

*Your passport to adventure*

# Gorillas & Plains

| | |
|---|---|
| COUNTRY(IES) | Kenya , Uganda |
| TOUR TYPE | Overland |
| TRANSPORT | Overland expedition vehicle, minibus & 4x4 safari jeeps |
| GROUP SIZE | Min: 4 \| Max: 20 |
| DURATION | 15 days |
| STARTS | Nairobi, Kenya |
| ENDS | Nairobi, Kenya |
| MEALS | Breakfasts - 14, Lunches - 14, Dinners - 14 |

**TOUR ROUTE MAP** **15 Days**




**ROUTE:** **Nairobi** (Start) → **Masai Mara National Reserve** → **Maasai Mara National Reserve** → **Lake Nakuru** → **Jinja** → **Budongo Central Forest Reserve** → **Masindi** → **Queen Elizabeth National Park** → **Lake Bunyonyi** → **Lake Mburo National Park** → **Jinja** → **Eldoret** → **Nairobi** (End)

**HIGHLIGHTS**

Masai Mara Reserve safaris, Masai tribe, Lake Nakuru, the equator, Murchison Falls, chimpanzees, Lake Bunyonyi, Mountain gorillas

## Itinerary

### DAY 1 Nairobi to the Masai Mara

Your African adventure begins in the Kenyan capital of Nairobi, departing from the hotel pick up point at the Sentrim Boulevard at 07.00am, so please be there at least 30 minutes early. The route then runs from Nairobi to the famous Masai Mara Game Reserve, one of the wildest and most spectacular safari destinations on the planet: stretching for over 1,510 square kilometres (580 square miles) and rising between 1,500 - 2,170 metres (4,920-7,120 feet) above sea level, the Masai Mara is home to all the Big Five wildlife (lion, leopard, elephant, buffalo and rhinoceros) as well as the great wildebeest migration for several months of the year. Travel to the Masai Mara in a minibus before switching over to a game vehicle; for this reason, please pack only a small overnight bag with your towel, clothes, toiletries and camping essentials, and leave the rest of your luggage with the expedition truck at the hotel. The included highlight is the Masai Mara excursion, an afternoon game drive introducing the reserve's big

cats, grazing herds and diverse birdlife. Note that the tour is available either based mainly on camping in traditional 2-person tents, which are provided together with camp beds, or as an upgraded “accommodated” version where you sleep in lodges, hotels or permanent camps with proper beds and facilities; details of each night’s stay are given in the Facilities section of the daily itinerary, and the pricing shown is based on camping, so please enquire for prices to upgrade to the accommodated level.

**ACTIVITIES**

- **Drive from Nairobi to Masai Mara**
  Depart Nairobi in the morning and drive across the Kenyan highlands towards the Masai Mara. Pass small towns and rural homesteads as you descend into one of Africa's most famous wildlife reserves.
- **Masai Mara Excursion in Afternoon Game Drive**
  Join an afternoon game drive on the plains of the Masai Mara in open safari vehicles. Look out for elephants, lions, giraffes and other wildlife grazing or resting in the golden light.

| OVERNIGHT | MEALS |
| --- | --- |
| Permanent Tents: Masai Mara Camp | Lunch,Dinner |

## DAY 2 Exploring the Masai Mara

Head out for a full-day game drive in the Masai Mara and spend several hours moving through open savannah and riverine areas. The reserve supports an exceptional variety of wildlife, although no individual species can be guaranteed. Longer time in the field provides broader coverage of the ecosystem and opportunities to observe changing animal activity, light and scenery across the day.

**ACTIVITIES**

- **Full Day Game Drive in Masai Mara**
  Spend a full day exploring the Masai Mara on game drives. Traverse open grasslands and riverine areas in search of the Big Five, cheetah, zebra and abundant birdlife.

| OVERNIGHT | MEALS |
| --- | --- |
| Permanent Tents: Masai Mara Camp | Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner |

## DAY 3 Travel to Lake Nakuru

The drive from the Masai Mara descends into the Rift Valley towards Lake Nakuru, passing escarpments and changing vegetation along the way. An afternoon game drive explores the national park's lakeshore habitats and acacia woodland, with opportunities to see rhinos, abundant birdlife and other wildlife. The day connects two distinct Kenyan safari landscapes through overland travel and game viewing.

**ACTIVITIES**

- **Drive from Masai Mara to Lake Nakuru**
  Leave the Masai Mara behind and drive north through the Rift Valley toward Lake Nakuru. Enjoy views of rolling hills and farmland as you approach this compact but wildlife-rich park.
- **Game Drive in Lake Nakuru National Park**
  Head out on a game drive in Lake Nakuru National Park, famous for its birdlife and lakeside scenery. Watch for flamingos, pelicans, rhino, buffalo and other plains game along the shore and in the surrounding bush.

| OVERNIGHT | MEALS |
| --- | --- |
| Waterbuck hotel | Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner |

## DAY 4 Lake Nakuru to Jinja

Travel from Lake Nakuru towards Uganda and cross the Equator before continuing west towards Jinja. The road passes through changing highland and rural landscapes, then becomes increasingly lush after entering Uganda. Arrival in Jinja brings you to the Nile region and completes a substantial cross-border journey that links Kenya’s Rift Valley with one of Uganda’s best-known riverside towns.

### ACTIVITIES

- **Drive from Lake Nakuru to Jinja**
  Travel from Lake Nakuru across western Kenya and into Uganda. Continue via the border posts and lush countryside to reach the Nile-side town of Jinja.
- **Crossing the Equator in Kenya**
  Stop at the Equator line for a photo opportunity as you officially cross between hemispheres. Learn a little about this geographic marker before continuing your journey to Jinja.

| OVERNIGHT | MEALS |
| --- | --- |
| Kalagala Falls Tented and Overland Camp | Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner |

## DAY 5 Jinja to Masindi and the Murchison Falls National Park

The drive from Jinja crosses the green landscapes of the Nile basin towards Masindi, passing rural settlements, farmland and woodland along the way. Masindi serves as a gateway to Murchison Falls National Park, which sits on the shore of Lake Albert, and free time on arrival provides an opportunity to rest after the journey and prepare for the upcoming wildlife experiences in a more relaxed setting.

### ACTIVITIES

- **Drive Jinja → Masindi and Murchison Falls National Park**
  Depart Jinja and drive through Uganda's capital, Kampala, before heading northwest towards Masindi. Continue toward the Murchison Falls region, passing villages, fields and roadside markets along the way.

- **Free Time in Masindi**
  Settle into your accommodation in the Masindi area after the drive. Enjoy some free time to relax and prepare for the next day's activities in and around Murchison Falls National Park.

| OVERNIGHT | MEALS | EXTRAS |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Kabalega Resort Hotel | Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner | Options available while on tour (KEOVGP) |

## DAY 6 Optional Chimp Trek and boat cruise in Budongo Central Forest Reserve

Spend the day across Budongo Forest and Murchison Falls National Park, beginning with a chimp trek before moving into the savannah for a game drive. Wildlife encounters remain dependent on natural conditions throughout both activities. Later, join a Nile cruise towards the falls and observe the river environment, with opportunities to see aquatic wildlife and birdlife without guaranteeing any particular species.

### ACTIVITIES

- **Chimp Trek in Budongo Central Forest Reserve**
  Join specialist guides for a chimpanzee trek in Budongo Forest, one of East Africa's largest mahogany forests. Walk under the canopy listening for calls and watching for chimp families moving through the trees.
- **Safari Drive – Murchison Falls National Park**
  Explore sections of Murchison Falls National Park on a game drive. Look for elephants, buffalo, antelope and predators that roam the savannah and woodland near the Nile.
- **Nile River Cruise on Murchison Falls National Park**
  Enjoy a boat cruise on the Nile within Murchison Falls National Park. Cruise past hippos, crocodiles and riverbank wildlife while viewing the powerful falls from the water.

| OVERNIGHT | MEALS | EXTRAS |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Kabalega Resort Hotel | Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner | Chimpanzee Trekking Permit |

## DAY 7 Lake Kikorongo

Travel from Masindi to Lake Kikorongo and experience the gradual change from forest-fringed country to broader open landscapes. The drive is the main organised component of the day, with no formal sightseeing stops specified. Once at the lake, spend the remaining time at leisure and settle into the surroundings before continuing with the next activities in the Queen Elizabeth region.

### ACTIVITIES

- **Drive from Masindi to Lake Kikorongo**
  Leave Masindi and travel southwest through rural Uganda towards Queen Elizabeth National Park. Arrive at the Lake Kikorongo area, set near the park boundary with views of surrounding plains and hills.

- **Free Time in Lake Kikorongo**
  Relax at your camp or lodge overlooking Lake Kikorongo. Take in the peaceful views and listen for birds and distant animal calls from the nearby national park.

| OVERNIGHT | MEALS |
| --- | --- |
| Simba Safari Camp | Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner |

## DAY 8 Crossing the Equator towards Lake Bunyonyi

The southbound drive from Lake Kikorongo crosses into the highlands of southwestern Uganda, with a symbolic stop at the Equator along the route. Arrival at Lake Bunyonyi reveals a landscape of islands, deep water and terraced hillsides. A briefing then prepares the group for the upcoming gorilla trek, connecting the day's scenic journey directly with the major wildlife experience ahead.

### ACTIVITIES

- **Drive from Lake Kikorongo to Lake Bunyonyi**
  Travel south from Lake Kikorongo across rolling hills and farmland towards Lake Bunyonyi. Pass back over the Equator and descend into a lush, lake-dotted landscape.
- **Crossing the Equator in Uganda**
  Mark your second Equator crossing in Uganda with another brief stop. Capture photos and appreciate the changing scenery between the country's regions.
- **Gorilla Trek Briefing in Lake Bunyonyi**
  Attend an evening briefing at Lake Bunyonyi to prepare for your gorilla trek. Learn about trekking procedures, what to expect in the forest and how your visit supports conservation.

| OVERNIGHT | MEALS |
| --- | --- |
| Lake Bunyonyi Overland Resort | Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner |

## DAY 9 Gorilla Trekking and Lake Bunyonyi

Travel from Lake Bunyonyi to the starting point for the scheduled gorilla trek and enter the forest under the guidance of the local trekking team. The activity can involve steep and uneven terrain, and the location of the gorillas varies naturally. After completing the trek, drive back to Lake Bunyonyi and spend the remaining time at leisure, providing a quiet recovery period beside the lake after the physically active morning.

### ACTIVITIES

- **Drive from Lake Bunyonyi to Gorilla Trek Starting Point**
  Travel from Lake Bunyonyi in smaller vehicles to the gorilla trek trailhead. Wind through mountainous terrain and local villages en route to the park briefing point.

- **Gorilla Trek in Mountain Gorillas**
  Head into the forest with experienced rangers in search of endangered mountain gorillas. Hike through steep, lush terrain until you locate a family group and spend precious time observing them at close range.
- **Drive from Gorilla Trek Starting Point to Lake Bunyonyi**
  Return by vehicle from the gorilla trekking area to Lake Bunyonyi. Relax back at the lakeside accommodation after an unforgettable wildlife experience.
- **Free Time in Lake Bunyonyi**
  Enjoy free time at Lake Bunyonyi after your trek day. Swim, kayak, or simply rest and appreciate the birdlife and tranquil scenery around the lake.

| OVERNIGHT | MEALS | EXTRAS |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Lake Bunyonyi Overland Resort | Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner | Gorilla Permit |

## DAY 10 Gorilla trekking and Lake Bunyonyi

Spend the day at leisure beside Lake Bunyonyi and choose how you would like to use the time. There are no included visits or transfers, allowing you to recover from previous activities or explore locally on your own. The highland lake, surrounding terraces and island-dotted scenery provide a calm setting for a slower day before the next overland movement through Uganda.

### ACTIVITIES

- **Free Time in Lake Bunyonyi**
  Enjoy free time at Lake Bunyonyi after your trek day. Swim, kayak, or simply rest and appreciate the birdlife and tranquil scenery around the lake.

| OVERNIGHT | MEALS | EXTRAS |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Lake Bunyonyi Overland Resort | Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner | Options available while on tour (KEOVGP), Gorilla Permit |

## DAY 11 Lake Mburo

Travel from Lake Bunyonyi to Lake Mburo and experience the shift from cool upland valleys to lower grassland country. The journey is primarily a transfer, with the changing landscape providing the main interest along the way. Once you reach the Lake Mburo area, the remainder of the time is free, allowing you to settle in and enjoy the surroundings before taking part in the scheduled park activities.

### ACTIVITIES

- **Drive from Lake Bunyonyi to Lake Mburo**
  Depart Lake Bunyonyi and drive northeast toward Lake Mburo National Park. Pass through the Ankole region's

rolling hills and small farming communities on the way.

- **Free Time in Lake Mburo**
  Settle into your lodge or camp near Lake Mburo and enjoy the scenic surroundings. Listen for birds and look out for wildlife that may pass close to the property.

| OVERNIGHT | MEALS |
| --- | --- |
| Leopard Rest | Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner |

## DAY 12 To Jinja

The journey from Lake Mburo towards Jinja crosses rolling farmland and greener landscapes shaped by the Nile. Free time on arrival offers an opportunity to rest or explore the town independently and experience its relaxed waterfront atmosphere. The day links the savannah country around Lake Mburo with the riverine surroundings of Jinja near the source of the Nile.

### ACTIVITIES

- **Drive from Lake Mburo to Jinja**
  Leave the Lake Mburo area and drive back across central Uganda towards Jinja. Travel through busy towns and rural landscapes before reaching the shores of the Nile once more.
- **Free Time in Jinja**
  Arrive in Jinja and enjoy free time in this adventure hub on the Nile. Relax at camp or consider optional river-based or land-based activities during your stay.

| OVERNIGHT | MEALS |
| --- | --- |
| Kalagala Falls Tented and Overland Camp | Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner |

## DAY 13 Free time for activities in Jinja

Enjoy a free day in Jinja and spend your time at your own pace near the headwaters of the Nile. You might relax beside the river, visit cafés, browse local craft markets or simply take in the town’s easy-going atmosphere. With no organised activities scheduled, the day provides a flexible break that allows you to enjoy one of Uganda’s best-known riverside towns without a fixed timetable or formal sightseeing programme.

### ACTIVITIES

- **Free Time in Jinja**
  Arrive in Jinja and enjoy free time in this adventure hub on the Nile. Relax at camp or consider optional river-based or land-based activities during your stay.

| OVERNIGHT | MEALS | EXTRAS |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Kalagala Falls Tented and Overland Camp | Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner | Options available while on tour (KEOVGP) |

DAY 14

## Back to Kenya

Travel from Jinja towards the border with Kenya and complete the final road section within Uganda. The drive carries you through countryside beyond the Nile region towards the eastern frontier, with rural communities and agricultural landscapes visible en route. No formal activities are included, allowing the focus to remain on reaching the border and preparing for the next stage of the journey in the neighbouring country.

**ACTIVITIES**

- **Drive from Jinja to Eldoret**
  Depart Jinja and cross back into Kenya via the Busia or Malaba border post. Continue to Eldoret, a highland city in the Rift Valley known for its cool climate and athletic heritage.

### Eldoret Arrival and Evening Leisure

Spend the evening at leisure in Eldoret after reaching this highland town in western Kenya. The unstructured period allows you to recover from the day’s travel and become familiar with the surroundings at your own pace. There are no formal visits included, giving you flexibility to relax before continuing onwards through Kenya on the following day.

**ACTIVITIES**

- **Free Time in Eldoret Evening**
  Arrive at your camp or lodge near Eldoret and relax after the travel day. Enjoy dinner and an evening at leisure in the Kenyan highlands.

| OVERNIGHT | MEALS |
| --- | --- |
| Naiberi River Camp | Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner |

DAY 15

## Finish in Nairobi

Leave Eldoret and travel through Kenya’s highlands towards Nairobi, exchanging cooler agricultural country for the busy urban surroundings of the capital. The long drive provides your final overland section before reaching the city. On arrival in Nairobi, the organised tour comes to an end, leaving you free to continue with your own arrangements or onward travel from the capital.

**ACTIVITIES**

- **Drive from Eldoret to Nairobi**

  Leave Eldoret and drive southeast along the Rift Valley back to Nairobi. Pass through towns and farmland as you return to Kenya's bustling capital.

- **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 | Extra day in Nairobi - post-tour, Departure airport transfer in Nairobi |

### INCLUDED

- 14 night’s accommodation as per the itinerary
- Transport in a 25-seat expedition vehicle
- Safari vehicles in the Masai Mara, Lake Nakuru and where required
- 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
- Optional activities (see itinerary and tour notes)
- Gorilla permits (see options)
- Chimp Trekking Permit (see options)
- 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.

**Gorilla Permit** *Min numbers: 1*

This permit covers the cost of the one day gorilla trek featured on this tour as well as transport to and from the forest, admin and currency fees. You will be invoiced for the cost of this permit with your deposit, and upon confirmation of your booking and receipt of payment, the Gorilla permit is bought and paid for. Gorilla permit numbers per day are limited, and once purchased the permit is non refundable, and unfortunately it can not be transferred to another person or a different date if you cancel or change your travel date.

## Extra day in Nairobi - 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.

## 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.

## Arrival airport transfer in Nairobi

*Min numbers: 1*

This option adds an arrival airport transfer in Nairobi 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.

## Chimpanzee Trekking Permit

*Min numbers: 1*

Embark on an unforgettable adventure into the heart of the Budongo Forest Reserve, located within the spectacular Murchison Falls National Park. Led by expert guides, you will journey through lush, ancient tropical rainforest in search of our closest living relatives.

Once a troop is located, you will have the privilege of spending one hour observing the chimpanzees in their natural habitat. Watch closely as they socialise, play, and forage high in the canopy or on the forest floor.

**Essential Info:**

- **Duration:** Treks typically last between two and five hours depending on the movement of the chimps.

- **Timing:** Excursions usually depart in the early morning to maximise sighting opportunities.
- **Experience:** A moderate level of fitness is recommended for navigating the forest trails.

## Options available while on tour (KEOVGP)

*Min numbers: 1*

These options are availabile while you are on the tour from local activity providers who your booking will be with. Prices are given as a guide and are subject to change.

**Kenya**

- **Masai Mara**
  - Tips for Guide - per day | $12 to $20

**Uganda**

- **Jinja**
  - Nile Cruise | $45 to $65
  - Nile River Rafting (half day) | $170 to $270
- **On Trek**
  - Tips for Guide - per day | $20 to $35
- **Bwindi Area**
  - Pygmy village visit (boat hire) (2020) | From $80

# 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.

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## 2 Destination Guides

### Masai Mara National Reserve

The Masai Mara National Reserve covers some 1 530 square km and is bounded by the Serengeti Park to the south, the Siria escarpment to the west and Masai pastoral ranches to the north, east and west. The terrain of the reserve is primarily open savannah grassland with seasonal riverlets. Wildebeest, zebra and Thomson's gazelle migrate into and occupy the Mara reserve from the Serengeti plains to the south and Loita plains in the pastoral ranches to the north-east, from July to October or later. The Great Migration is one of the most impressive natural events worldwide, involving some 1.5 million wildebeests, 360 000 Thomson's gazelles and 191 000 zebras. These numerous migrants are followed along their annual, circular route by a block of hungry predators, most notably lions and hyena.

All members of the ‘Big 5’ are found in the Masai Mara, although the population of black rhinoceros is severely threatened, with a population of only 37 recorded in 2000. Hippopotami are found in large groups in the Masai Mara and Talek rivers. Cheetah is also found, although their numbers are threatened. Additionally, over 450 species of birdlife have been identified in the park, including vultures, marabou storks, secretary birds, hornbills, crowned cranes, ostriches, long-crested eagles and African pygmy-falcons.

The park was named after the people who have made their homes in the area for centuries, the Masai. The Masai Mara tribe is arguably the most famous of all African tribes and have been in the region of the Masai Mara Reserve for centuries, using the plains to feed their livestock, hunt and make their homes. While visiting the reserve you’ll have the opportunity to meet the Masai, visit their villages and learn about their customs.

### Lake Nakuru National Park

Lake Nakuru National Park is named after the alkaline lake that it encircles. Nakuru means ‘dry or dusty place’ in the Masai language. Although it was initially established as a bird sanctuary, it is now home to a surprisingly large number of animal species, including the Big Four – lion, leopard, rhino and buffalo but sadly there are no elephants in the park. Lake Nakuru is famous for the vast flocks of flamingos that line its shores, attracted by the abundance of algae. It is also a sanctuary for black and white rhino and has recently been extended to protect these endangered animals.

### Lake Bunyoni

Lake Bunyonyi ("Place of many little birds") lies on the border of Rwanda. It is 25 km long and 7 km wide, covering an area of 61 square km. The depth of the lake is rumoured to vary between 44 m and 900 m, which if true would make the lake the second deepest in Africa. It is one of the few lakes in the region that is free of bilharzia and safe for swimming (please check locally for up to date information). Its 29 islands are concentrated in the central part.

These islands have few settlements, mostly tourist facilities, schools and missions.

**Jinja**

Jinja was formerly a fishing village that benefited from being on long-distance trade routes. The city was founded in 1901 by the British, as an administrative centre for the Provincial Government Headquarters for Busoga region. This was around the time that Lake Victoria's importance in transport rose due to the Uganda Railway linking Kisumu, a Kenyan town on the lake, with Mombasa on the Indian Ocean, 1 400 km away. Cotton-packing, nearby sugar estates and railway access all enabled Jinja to grow in size. In 1906 a street pattern was laid out and Indian traders moved in from around 1910.

Jinja once had a large East Indian community until they were expelled from Uganda by Idi Amin in 1971 and 1972. Much of Jinja's architecture is Indian-influenced, although the detailed shop-fronts and buildings were poorly maintained after the Indians left. Local industrial concerns also collapsed. Many of the East Indians who are now returning to Uganda are choosing to set up businesses again.

**Eldoret**

Eldoret, strangely, is a Kenyan town founded by Afrikaners in 1910. The town was originally known as 64 or "Sisibo" by the locals, because it was established at the 64th mile post on the wagon route from Londiani. In 1908, the Eldoret area had been settled by Afrikaans-speaking South Africans who "trekked" there from Nakuru after a journey from South Africa by sea and by rail from Mombasa. Other European and Asian settlers and traders began arriving shortly afterwards. When the governor decided to establish an administrative centre the town was officially named Eldoret in 1912. Becoming an administrative centre caused an enormous increase in trade within the prospective city. A bank and several shops were built.

Eldoret is the hometown of numerous legendary Kenyan runners, the most renowned of whom is Kipchoge Keino. The high altitude is an ideal training ground for many middle and long distance athletes. The runners from Eldoret have contributed significantly to the economy of Eldoret town from their winnings in races all over the world.

**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 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.

Transport to the Masai Mara from Nairobi is done in a minibus.

## 4 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.

## 5 Gorilla Permits 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.

This tour also requires a separate advance payment (with your deposit) for a **Gorilla Permit** needed for your gorilla trek in Uganda. Prices for these permits can be discounted by the local authorities from time to time and we will pass on any current discounts available when you book. Gorilla permits are not transferrable to different names or dates.

Please check the Options section for more information and prices.

## 6 Tipping on Overland tours

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. We recommend USD1-2 (or about R10-R20) 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.

## 7 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, the crew 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 crew 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 the 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!

## 8 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.

## 9 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.

## 10 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).

## 11 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')

## 12 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.**

## 13 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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## 14 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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## 15 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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## 16 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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## 17 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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## 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.

## 19 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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