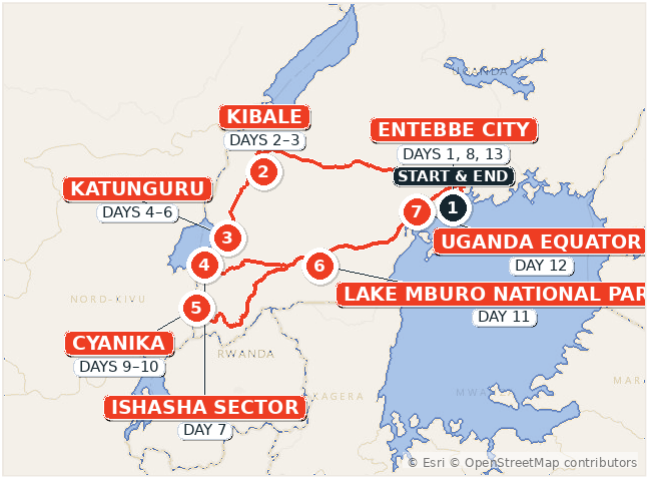
ENCOUNTERS TRAVEL

Your passport to adventure

Primates of Uganda

COUNTRY(IES)	Uganda
TOUR TYPE	Private
TRANSPORT	4x4 safari vehicle
GROUP SIZE	Min: 1 | Max: 0
DURATION	13 days
STARTS	Entebbe, Uganda
ENDS	Entebbe, Uganda
MEALS	Breakfasts - 12, Lunches - 11, Dinners - 10

TOUR ROUTE MAP **13 Days**



ROUTE: **Entebbe City** (Start) → **Kibale** → **Katunguru** → **Ishasha Sector** → **Nansana** → **Cyanika** → **Lake Mburo National Park** → **Uganda Equator** → **Entebbe City** (End)

HIGHLIGHTS

Gorilla tracking at Bwindi, chimpanzee tracking at Kibale and Kyambura Gorge, Queen Elizabeth NP game drives, amazing African landscapes, experience amazing & diverse wildlife, enjoy river & lake cruises

Itinerary

DAY 1 Arrive in Entebbe and transfer to Kampala hotel

Meet the representative at Entebbe Airport and transfer to the accommodation selected for your stay. Once there, receive practical assistance with settling in and an outline of the plans ahead. The remainder of the arrival period is kept relaxed, allowing you to get comfortable after the flight and prepare for the Uganda experiences that follow.

ACTIVITIES

- **Arrival at Entebbe Airport**
  You are met on arrival at Entebbe airport after completing the formalities. This is where your primate-tracking journey through Uganda begins.
- **Transfer: Entebbe Airport to Your Hotel**
  A road transfer takes you from the airport to your chosen accommodation. The rest of the day is left free to recover from the flight.

- **Meet the Local Representative**
  A short welcome meeting is held at the hotel with your local representative. They help you settle in and talk through the plan for the days ahead.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS	EXTRAS
Kampala hotel	None	Single room supplement (UGTMPU), Extra day in Kampala - pre-tour

DAY 2 Drive to Kibale Forest National Park

The road journey to Kibale takes around five to six hours and includes a lunch stop at Fort Portal. After arrival, transfer to Primate Lodge for the two-night stay and join a short visit to Bigodi Wetland Sanctuary. Birdlife, butterflies and primates may be encountered, but all wildlife sightings depend on natural conditions. No particular species should be guaranteed during the wetland visit.

ACTIVITIES

- **Travel to Kibale Forest National Park**
  Five to six hours on the road takes you to Kibale Forest National Park through dramatic western Ugandan landscapes. Village life and farmland pass the window before the road enters the forest.
- **Stop for Lunch in Fort Portal**
  The drive pauses at Fort Portal, the crater-lake town that acts as the gateway to Kibale Forest. A meal is taken here before continuing on to the forest.
- **Guided Walk in Bigodi Wetland Sanctuary**
  A community guide leads you along the boardwalk trail through Bigodi swamp. Look for red-tailed monkey, L'Hoest's monkey, black and white colobus and grey-cheeked mangabey, along with a long list of birds and butterflies.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS
Kibale NP hotel	Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner

DAY 3 Chimpanzee tracking in Kibale National Park

The morning chimpanzee trek lasts approximately five hours and takes place with an experienced guide. Chimpanzees are highly mobile, so encounters remain unpredictable. After lunch, continue to Bigodi Wetland Sanctuary for the 4.5-kilometre guided trail, where birdlife, butterflies and up to several primate species may be seen naturally. Return to Primate Lodge afterwards, with no further organised activity specified.

ACTIVITIES

- **Guided Walk in Bigodi Wetland Sanctuary**
  A community guide leads you along the boardwalk trail through Bigodi swamp. Look for red-tailed monkey,

L'Hoest's monkey, black and white colobus and grey-cheeked mangabey, along with a long list of birds and butterflies.

- **Chimpanzee Trek through Kibale Forest National Park**
  An early breakfast is followed by a five-hour trek in search of chimpanzees. They move fast and sightings are never guaranteed, so your guide reads the forest and follows the calls.
- **Time at Leisure at Primate Lodge**
  Primate Lodge in the late afternoon is followed by an evening at leisure. The sounds of the forest provide company from the veranda after a long day on the trails.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS
Kibale NP hotel	Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner

DAY 4 Drive to Queen Elizabeth National Park

The day includes the road journey to Queen Elizabeth National Park, a short game drive, arrival at Jacana Safari Lodge and an afternoon boat trip on the Kazinga Channel. The source lists several mammals that may be seen, but no species should be guaranteed. Wildlife activity varies naturally, and sightings of leopard, lion and giant forest hog are specifically described as less regular.

ACTIVITIES

- **Travel to Queen Elizabeth National Park**
  The drive south towards Queen Elizabeth National Park follows the Rwenzori range for most of the way. You arrive around the middle of the day.
- **Safari Drive En Route to Queen Elizabeth National Park**
  A brief game run into Queen Elizabeth National Park breaks the drive. Lion, leopard, hyena, elephant and buffalo are all possible across the open country as you make your way in.
- **Kazinga Channel Cruise**
  Afternoon cruising on the Kazinga Channel brings you to its mouth, where elephant, buffalo, waterbuck and outsized hippo are seen almost daily. Giant forest hog, leopard and lion are the less common bonuses.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS
Queen Elizabeth NP hotel	Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner

DAY 5 Queen Elizabeth National Park, game drives

We begin today very early and after an early breakfast we head to the Kasenyi Plains area of Queen Elizabeth which supports the highest concentration of Game in the park. These plains are one of the most important breeding grounds for the Ugandan Kob and at times, thousands can be be gathered in this area. Kasenyi is also an area known for its Lions, Elephants and Buffalo populations. After lunch we leave the vehicle behind and take a walk through the Maramagambo Forest. This is one of Uganda's largest forests and it is the only place in Queen

Elizabeth where Blue Lakes can be found. One of the main draws to the forest is the abundant primate populations which include L'Hoests's monkey, Bush babies, Chimpanzees, Baboons, vervet and red-tailed monkeys. Another popular walk is to the Bat Cave where significant populations of bats are resident as well as the Rock Python which is regularly spotted by visitors. Tonight is spent at the Jacana Safari Lodge.

ACTIVITIES

- **Morning Safari Drive Across the Kasenyi Plains**
  First light sees you heading out to the Kasenyi Plains, where game is at its densest in the park. These are important breeding grounds for the Ugandan kob, and lion, elephant and buffalo follow the herds.
- **Guided Walk in Maramagambo Forest**
  Maramagambo, one of Uganda's largest forests and the only part of the park holding its Blue Lakes, is explored on foot in the afternoon. Watch for chimpanzees, baboons, bush babies and several species of monkey.
- **Discover the Bat Cave in Maramagambo Forest**
  A short walk leads to the Bat Cave in Maramagambo Forest, home to a large resident colony of bats. Rock pythons are drawn to the same spot and are regularly spotted by visitors.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS
Queen Elizabeth NP hotel	Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner

DAY 6 Kyambura Gorge walk and Chimpanzee tracking

Today we have a trip to visit Kyambura Gorge which is home to an isolated population of Chimpanzees. Kyambura Gorge is around 100 metres deep and we begin today's trip with a hike down from the edge of the gorge before beginning to track the Chimpanzees. Because of the small habitat which they inhabit you have a much better chance of viewing Chimpanzees here and they can often be tracked by their sounds alone. Once we locate the Chimpanzees you will be able to witness them playing, squabbling and going about their daily life high above in the forest canopy. Kyambura is also home to many of animals and a vast display of flora and fauna. This afternoon can be spent relaxing at the Jacana Safari Lodge or joining us for an additional game drive within Queen Elizabeth National Park.

ACTIVITIES

- **Chimpanzee Tracking through Kyambura Gorge**
  From the rim of Kyambura Gorge you descend around a hundred metres to track the isolated chimpanzee community living in the forest below. The small habitat improves your odds, and the group can often be located by sound alone.
- **Free Time at Jacana Safari Lodge**
  Jacana Safari Lodge, set beside the water in the heart of the park, offers an afternoon at leisure. Birdwatching and rest follow the forest climb.
- **Optional Afternoon Safari Drive in Queen Elizabeth National Park**
  An optional extra game drive in Queen Elizabeth National Park can replace the afternoon at the lodge. It offers a second chance at the species that eluded you earlier in your stay.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS
Queen Elizabeth NP hotel	Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner

DAY 7 Drive to Bwindi via the Ishasha Plains

Travel towards Bwindi with a lunch stop and short game drive through the Ishasha Plains included en route. Tree-climbing lions may be present, but the source itself notes that the behaviour varies and is more likely in the rainy season, so no sighting should be promised. After the game drive, continue to Bwindi and arrive at the base for the later gorilla-tracking programme.

ACTIVITIES

- **Safari Drive Across the Ishasha Plains**
  A short game drive across the Ishasha Plains breaks the journey. The area is famous for lions that rest in fig trees, a behaviour most often seen during the rains, with around forty animals in three prides.
- **Travel to Bwindi Impenetrable Forest**
  The road pushes south towards Bwindi Impenetrable Forest, the base for your gorilla tracking. As the drive progresses the savannah gives way to dense montane forest.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS
Bwindi NP hotel	Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner

DAY 8 Gorilla tracking at Bwindi Impenetrable Forest

Today's activities are the highlight of most peoples visit to Uganda - a unique encounter with the Mountain Gorillas. Today we have an early start where we will register with the local ranger station, and after being assigned a group we will transfer to the trailhead where our adventure will begin. It's hard to give an estimate of how long you will be hiking today as this depends on how where the Gorillas are located, the hike can take anything from 2 to 8 hours. For conservation purposes you will be limited to just 1 hour with the Gorillas, so make the most of your time here! The feeling is indescribable when you first time you lock eyes with one of these gentle giants. You will be able to watch them grooming, feeding, playing and witness how human like their interactions with each other are.

ACTIVITIES

- **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.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS
Bwindi NP hotel	Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner

DAY 9 Explore the forest on a series of guided walks

The day is flexible within Bwindi, with forest walks of different lengths chosen locally with the guide. The source states that a village walk of around three hours may be possible depending on the length of the forest walk. Bird, mammal and primate sightings are never guaranteed. The Bakiga and Batwa cultural visit should therefore remain conditional rather than automatically included for every departure.

ACTIVITIES

- **Guided Forest Walks through Bwindi Impenetrable Forest**
  Bwindi's network of forest trails ranges from half an hour to a full eight hours. The route is settled with your guide on the day to suit how far you want to walk.
- **Birdwatching around Bwindi Impenetrable Forest**
  Bwindi's forest trails are followed with birds in mind. Over 190 species have been recorded here, ten of them listed in the Red Data Book, in what is thought to be the most biodiverse forest in East Africa.
- **Village Walk alongside the Bakiga and Batwa Communities**
  If the morning trail leaves enough time, a three-hour walk through the villages on the forest edge introduces you to the customs and daily practices of the Bakiga and Batwa people.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS
Bwindi NP hotel	Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner

DAY 10 Drive to Lake Mburo & boat trip or game drive

Drive from Bwindi to Lake Mburo over roughly four to five hours and continue through the park to the accommodation. Lunch is followed by the scheduled afternoon boat trip. Hippos, crocodiles, waterbuck, bushbuck, buffalo and birds are commonly seen according to the source, but no encounter should be guaranteed. The overnight stay is at Mihingo Lodge. The collection should not substitute a game drive for the stated boat activity.

ACTIVITIES

- **Journey from Bwindi to Lake Mburo**
  Four to five hours on the road east from Bwindi to Lake Mburo passes through some of the finest scenery in the country. Stops for photographs can be made as often as you like.
- **Lake Mburo Cruise**
  A motorboat trip across Lake Mburo in the afternoon brings you face to face with hippo, crocodile, waterbuck, bushbuck and buffalo along the shoreline, with plenty of birdlife to match.
- **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
Lake Mburo hotel	Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner

DAY 11

Lake Mburo, guided game walk

One thing unique to Lake Mburo is that you are permitted to walk anywhere within the park when accompanied by a ranger. On our guided walks you may encounter Buffalo, Impala, Topi, Zebra, and Waterbuck. We can be flexible with the length of our walks depending on how much energy you have left!! In order to explore the park fully you need to do this by road, we have an optional afternoon game drive where we follow the Impala and Zebra tracks for some fantastic game viewing.

ACTIVITIES

- **Game Walk in Lake Mburo National Park**
  Lake Mburo is the rare Ugandan park where walking anywhere is permitted with a ranger. Set off on foot among buffalo, impala, topi, zebra and waterbuck, going as far as your legs allow.
- **Optional Afternoon Safari Drive in Lake Mburo National Park**
  An optional afternoon drive along the Impala and Zebra tracks covers more ground than walking allows. The road network reaches parts of the park that a foot safari cannot.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS
Lake Mburo hotel	Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner

DAY 12

Drive to Kampala & stop en-route at the Equator

Travel back to Kampala with a stop at the Equator. The source says there is a chance for a final game drive, so this should not automatically be treated as guaranteed. After arrival, the rest of the day is at leisure. A visit to the Uganda National Museum is available as an optional afternoon tour and should remain clearly separate from the included programme.

ACTIVITIES

- **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.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS
Kampala hotel	Breakfast,Lunch

DAY 13

Transfer to the airport for departure

Today we bid farewell to this unique and interesting country. Our guide will transfer you to Entebbe Airport for your departure. Most of the remaining time is spent travelling between the named places, with the surroundings changing along the way. The journey itself provides time to watch the landscape change between the departure point and the next destination.

ACTIVITIES

- **Transfer: Entebbe Airport**
  Your guide travels with you by road to Entebbe Airport in good time for your departure, closing the loop on the journey that began there.
- **End of Tour in Entebbe**
  Farewell is said to Uganda and to the guides who have led you through its forests and plains. Your Primates of Uganda tour ends here.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS	EXTRAS
N/A	Breakfast	Extra day in Kampala - post-tour

INCLUDED

- Accommodation at your requested standard
- All meals indicated in your itinerary
- Airport transfers at the start and end of your trip
- Gorilla trekking permit
- Park and Game Reserve entrance fees
- All activities mentioned in your itinerary
- Qualified tour guide to accompany you on all sightseeing
- Private vehicles for all road journeys indicated
- Comprehensive pre-departure material

EXCLUDED

- International flights (can be arranged on request)
- Visas
- Departure taxes
- Tips
- Meals, drinks & snacks not mentioned in the itinerary
- Any other items not mentioned in the itinerary

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.

No additional options available for this tour.

Important Notes

1 Accommodation

This tour uses comfortable accommodations which can be considered appoximately 2 to 3-star level. Accommodation is based on twin, triple or double en-suite rooms. Please visit the accommodation tab of this tour for examples of the hotels normally used on this tour. If you have any specific accommodation requests please let us know and we'll be happy to provide you with a customised quotation.

2 Transport

On our Ugandan tours we don't use any public transportation. The majority of this tour will be by private 4x4 type vehicles.

3 Transfers

Your airport transfers are only included on the first and last day of the set tour itinerary, plus on any additional days if you book your hotel room with us. If you make your own arrangements for additional accommodation at either the beginning or the end of the tour then you will need to arrange your own airport transfers on these days.

4 Group Size/Tour Leaders/Guides

As we don't offer guaranteed group departures on this tour we can run the itinerary for however many people you happen to be travelling with, starting from 1 upwards. The prices given for this tour are based on a minimum of 2 passengers travelling, so if you have a different number of passengers in your group please contact us for a customised quotation.

On our Africa safari's we use local English-speaking guides and drivers for all of the sightseeing tours. Whilst staying at certain lodges we may also make use of the in-house guides for safari activities. All tours and safari activities will be guided in English. At Encounters Travel we only use local guides and reps. We feel this gives you the best experience of the country and the sites you are seeing. Please check our website for more details and profiles of some of our most famous guides.

Please note that whilst participating in the Gorilla trek you'll be required to share with other passengers also completing the trek on that particular day.

5 Entrance Fees

The tour price includes entrance fees to all the tourist sites mentioned in the itinerary. You will need to cover the cost of entrance to any other extra sites that you may wish to visit.

6 Gorilla Permit

This tour requires a Gorilla Trekking permit which is not included in the price of the tour. This permit covers the cost of the one day gorilla trek featured on this tour. Prices for these permits do vary with substantial discounts offered by the local authorities from time to time. We will pass on any current discounts available when you book. You will be invoiced for the cost of this permit with your deposit based on the price at that time, 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.

7 Dates & Prices

This tour is designed as a sample tailor-made tour itinerary. As such we do not offer set group departure dates that you can join. Rather, the tour is available for you to do privately starting on any date of the year. Guideline seasonal prices are given below, based on 2 people travelling. If you would like to adjust the tour itinerary, or there will be more or less people travelling, please contact us and we will customise a price for you.
For many people planning a trip to Vietnam, the weather will be a determining factor in choosing when to travel. You can visit Uganda at anytime as the country enjoys a fairly steady climate with little change in temperatures throughout the year. The main factor when considering a trip to Uganda is the rainfall. Trekking in the Mountains and other forest walks during the rainy season can be very challenging and should be avoided if possible. The rains generally peak mid-September to November and March to May. Mountain Hikes, Gorilla tracking and other forest walks wouldn't be recommended during the rainy season. If you are visiting Uganda for reasons other than Gorilla tracking, such as bird watching then the wet months are often more productive as these are often the months in which breeding takes place. Please speak with our reservations team who will be happy to help you in selecting an appropriate time for your tour.

8 Money - Uganda

The currency in Uganda is the Ugandan Shilling (UGX)

Normal currency denominations are:

Common Coins

500 UGX

200 UGX

100 UGX

50 UGX

20 UGX

10 UGX

5 UGX

2 UGX

1 UGX

Common Notes

50,000 UGX

20,000 UGX

10,000 UGX

5,000 UGX

1,000 UGX

The Ugandan Shilling is a restricted currency and cannot generally be obtained outside of Uganda. Hard currency can be easily exchanged in all major cities, the currency of preference being US Dollars however Sterling and Euros are also widely accepted. Credit cards are accepted in Uganda but aren't widely used. ATM's are available in larger cities but these shouldn't be relied upon.

Travellers cheques can be exchanged at banks within Kampala but aren';t generally accepted in the rest of the country so travellers are advised to bring sufficient hard currency. Bank opening hours are generally Monday & Friday 0830-1400, Saturdays 0900-1200.

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9 Time

The time in Uganda is GMT plus 3 hours. Daylight saving adjustments are not observed.

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10 Voltage

Sockets are three rectangular pronged and 220 volts (British BS-1363). Universal adaptors are available in most airport shops if you don't have one already. If you've travelled to the UK previously and have an adaptor for here or if you are travelling from the UK then the plugs in Uganda are the same. All hotel rooms have electrical sockets where you can re-charge cameras, phones etc. Hair dryers are normally available on request from the hotel reception if not in your room already.
If you have US appliances (110 volts) you will need a voltage converter as well as a plug adapter.

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11 Tipping

Tipping isn't part of Ugandan culture, however there's never any harm in rounding up a bill by a few shillings if you've been particularly pleased with the services you've received. In upmarket hotels, porters will generally expect a small tip and in many restaurants a service charge of around 10% is often added.

At the end of a tour it's common to tip your tour guide/safari guide if you feel that you've received good service from them and whilst there is no set amount for this, we're often asked for recommendations. On our Uganda tours an average tip would be around $5-$10 per person per day, however you shouldn't feel oblidged to tip any specific

amount.

12 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.

13 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.

14 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).

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15 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')

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16 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.

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17 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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18 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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19 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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20 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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21 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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22 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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23 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.