Updated Oct11
FOR 2012 DEPARTURES

ACACIA AFRICA

SOUTH EAST ADVENTURE – TOUR DOSSIER

Tour Code SEA31	**NAIROBI – JOHANNESBURG**	**31 DAYS**
Tour Departure – 08:00	**Pre-departure Meeting – 18:00 day prior to departure**	

HIGHLIGHTS
Masai Mara National Reserve
Great Rift Valley
Meserani Snake Park
Masai Village Walk
Serengeti National Park
Olduvai Gorge
Ngorongoro Crater Conservation Area
Zanzibar
Lake Malawi
Livingstone – Victoria Falls
Chobe National Park
Kruger National Park

From the east to the south this tour offers world renowned game parks, shimmering beaches and tropical Zanzibar, the impressive Victoria Falls, and friendly Malawi. With a full range of action-packed activities along the way, this is a great adventure with rewarding wildlife encounters!

INTENDED ITINERARY

It is our intention to adhere to the route described below but a certain amount of flexibility is built into the tour and on occasion it may be necessary or desirable to make alterations to the published itinerary. Please therefore treat the following as a guide only.

Duration: 31 Days
Countries visited: Kenya, Tanzania, Malawi, Zambia, Botswana, South Africa

DAY 1- 3
Nairobi, Masai Mara National Reserve

Kenya is East Africa's most popular destination and has a long tradition of tourism and of welcoming visitors. We recommend you arrive the day before the tour's scheduled departure in order to relax and overcome any jetlag before starting your trip. Nairobi, has seen rapid growth in recent years but has a comparatively small city centre, ideal for walking, a very interesting city market, numerous craft shops, book shops and plenty of cafes and restaurants. We depart the city early Day One of the tour and make our way across the Great Rift Valley to the Masai Mara National Reserve. We spend two nights camping on the edge of the Reserve with time to explore the park on morning and afternoon game drives. The sweeping plains, distant horizons, low slung acacia trees, occasional coppices of vegetation, and plentiful wildlife form a deeply evocative introduction to this wonderful continent. The 'Mara' is crossed every year between July and October by great herds of wildebeest, zebra and other grazing animals in their migration from the adjoining Serengeti plains to the south (in Tanzania). Predators (such as lion, cheetah, leopard) and scavengers (hyena, vultures) follow the grazing animals and this enormous congregation of wildlife forms a spectacular display of Africa's natural resource. But the Mara is excellent for game viewing at any time of year and regardless of when you can visit we hope to see some, if not all, of Africa's 'Big Five' (elephant, lion, rhino, buffalo and leopard) and an array of other wildlife.

From the Mara, we return to Nairobi, where we usually overnight, on our way south into Tanzania.

DAY 4- 8
Arusha, Serengeti National Park,
Olduvai Gorge, Ngorongoro Crater

After crossing the border at the busy Namanga frontier we come to Arusha. Situated mid-way between Cape Town and Cairo, this is very much Tanzania's 'safari capital' - a bustling city with colourful markets, shops, vehicles and people, all nestling in the shadow of the brooding Mt Meru (4556m). After exploring the curio markets, we head to our camp outside Arusha on the open plains to the west of the city. There is the opportunity to walk to one of the local Masai villages. For those who are interested there is a local school and small clinic near the campsite, or you may wish to visit the small but very informative Masai museum and to walk through the – also very informative – Meserani Snake enclosure.

Switching to smaller more 'gamepark friendly' vehicles we drive west across the Rift Valley, passing through Mto Wa Mbo ('mosquito creek') and enter the Ngorongoro Crater Conservation Area. We pass into the park and drive around the Crater rim and down onto the Serengeti plains. Stopping at the Olduvai Gorge, made famous by Drs Louis and Mary Leakey for explorations into early man we descend onto the open plains and wide horizons of the Serengeti. Green after the rains, brown and burnt in the dry this is home to an enormous variety of grazing animals, predators, and birdlife. Flatter and larger than the Masai Mara the Serengeti is simply huge - indeed the name derives from the Masai word *Siringitu* – 'the place where the land moves on forever'. Game viewing here can be superb and camping out in the designated (but unfenced) campsite where lion and hyena roam nearby is an unforgettable experience.

The following day we drive out of the plains for gamedriving and after lunch ascend the outer wall of the Ngorongoro Crater. We spend the night camping on the rim (you may need a jacket; it can be cold at night). At 326 square kilometres in area the Ngorongoro is Africa's largest intact caldera and is a World Heritage Site. If the view from the rim (2400 metres above sea level) is spectacular, the site from the Crater floor (some 600 metres below) is equally enjoyable. All the major mammals are present except giraffe (which cannot manage the steep slopes leading down onto the Crater floor) and we descend the steep access road for a morning of game driving. Time her is limited however and we drive back up the access road after lunch for a final view over the Ngorongoro before we retrace our steps to Arusha and our camp for the evening.

DAY 9 - 13
Dar es Salaam - Zanzibar

We have time in Arusha to replenish our stores before continuing past the shadow of Mt Kilimanjaro (Africa's highest peak at 5895m) to Dar es Salaam and the Indian Ocean. 'Dar' is Tanzania's main port and is a hub of commerce and industry - a hot, humid and bustling city. We set up camp at our campsite on the beach just outside of the city centre, usually having time to browse curio markets - best known for ebony wood - and prepare for our trip to Zanzibar.

Evocative and exotic, Zanzibar conjures up images of idyllic, sandy, palm fringed beaches, romantic winding cobbled alleys and lush tropical forests. You will find all of these here – and an intriguing history. Zanzibar was the base for the great 19th century explorers John Hanning Speke, Richard Burton and David Livingstone and was once a major trading centre for spices. Indeed the spice trade is central to the island's history – Zanzibaris have traded with the people of the Arabian peninsula for generations, plying the ocean in simple dhow sailboats using the annual trade winds for passage. The Arab influence is evident in the architecture and diverse street stall offerings of Stone Town. Indeed the Arab influence can be seen right along the East African coast - the *Swahili* language itself the result of the mixing of Arab and African languages and cultures over many centuries.

Zanzibar's other history is not so romantic. The island was a staging post for slaves brought from the African interior, held before shipping to slave owners in the middle east. You can still see the places where these men and women were held – and even a short visit is enough to convey the appalling conditions they had to endure.

Our time on the island is not structured and your time is at leisure. Perhaps the best way to see Stone Town is on foot: explore the bazaars, shops, mosques, palaces, courtyards and alleyways of the old town. Spices are grown in plantations nearby and you can take day-tours to visit some and have your senses dazzled by the tastes and scents experienced. If it's white sand, sparkling ocean and hot sun you prefer – head for the northern beaches and enjoy the Indian Ocean at its best. Try snorkelling and diving, indulge in some sumptuous seafood, or simply relax beneath a coconut palm with a cocktail and a good book.

After three nights we cross back by ferry to the African mainland and Dar es Salaam.

NB As we leave the truck on the mainland, basic tourist class accommodation on Zanzibar is included in the Local Payment but for the sake of flexibility meals are left for your own account. Typically we spend one night in Stone Town and the next two nights in the north of the island at one of the beaches. Your tour leader will be available to assist if you experience any problems but there are no set activities - the time is entirely at your leisure.

DAY 14 - 19
Mikumi National Park – Lake Malawi Beaches

We spend one further night in Dar es Salaam before leaving the coast and driving across country to Malawi. The road runs through the relatively small (by African standards) Mikumi National Park and passes through various small towns and villages of rural Tanzania. We enter Malawi at its northern tip and almost immediately catch a glimpse of the enormous Lake Malawi. Covering almost a fifth of the country's area, Lake Malawi is one of Africa's 'great lakes' and provides a source of livelihood for many of the Malawi people. Fishermen, traders, canoe and net makers are common sights along the shoreline. Freshwater and good swimming explains why the lake is a major visitor attraction.

We camp along the lake shore, usually by the beach. There is usually a range of water sports available and time to indulge or simply to relax. The Malawi people are known amongst travellers as being very friendly and there is usually the opportunity to meet some of the local people from the nearby communities.

DAY 20 - 24
Lusaka – Livingstone – Victoria Falls

Leaving Malawi we cross into Zambia. We cross the Luangwa River and pass through the capital city, Lusaka, to Livingstone and Victoria Falls, arriving on day 22 of the tour. Our camp is on the banks of the mighty Zambezi River, one of Africa's major rivers, indeed the largest that flows eastward into the Indian Ocean. Time here is at leisure. Take advantage of the range of optional activities typically available: white water rafting, bungee jumping, abseiling, gorge swinging, canoeing, elephant and horse riding, lion walks, game drives and scenic flights. Naturally a visit to the Victoria Falls themselves is a 'must'. At over a mile wide and some 100m deep, at high water the 'Falls' is the largest curtain of falling water in the world. Depending on the time of year the spray from the Falls can be seen from 30 kilometres - hence the local name Mosi au Tunya – 'smoke that thunders'.

NB For the sake of practicality, meals in the Livingstone/Victoria Falls area are restricted to breakfasts. This allows you to take on half day or full day activities (some of which include lunch) without having to be back with the group at mealtimes. The Waterfront camp restaurant overlooks the Zambezi River and offers a selection of reasonably priced meals and snacks throughout the day (we suggest you allow US$30-$40 per day). Alternatively Livingstone town is a short taxi ride away, where you can eat out at one of the local restaurants.

DAY 25 - 30
Livingstone – Chobe National Park
Greater Kruger & National Park

From Livingstone, we drive the short distance to the Botswana frontier and cross into this vast country by simple ferry. Our first stop is near Chobe National Park, home to large populations of elephant, as well as lion, hyena and abundant birdlife. We take a late afternoon game viewing cruise to see hippo, buffalo or elephant coming to drink at the end of the day.

We continue across the flat grasslands of eastern and southern Botswana via Nata, Francistown to South Africa. Once border formalities are complete we continue to southern Africa's premier game reserve, the Kruger National Park. The fences between the national park and adjacent private reserves have been removed resulting in the massive 'Greater Kruger' - an area of over 24,000 square kilometres. We spend two nights here and hope to catch sight of some of Africa's marvellously diverse wildlife: lion, elephant, buffalo, leopard, giraffe, and some of the 500 species of bird that inhabit the park. The landscape is mainly flat bush and savannah but there is a good road network within the park and whilst the time we have available is limited it does allow us to glimpse the diversity. In addition to morning gamedrives there may also be the option of a cultural evening at one of the local villages to round off our tour.

DAY 31
Johannesburg

We leave the Kruger behind and make our way to South Africa's commercial capital, Johannesburg, where our tour ends in the late afternoon/early evening of day 31.

TOUR INFORMATION

Travelling overland is great fun, but it can also be challenging! This is a *participation* tour and your help will be needed in setting up the camp each night and assisting (usually on a rota basis) with the various day to day campsite duties, such as shopping, cooking and keeping the truck and camp tidy. But don't worry it's not all hard work and it's a great way to meet the local people and get to know your fellow travellers. Your contribution benefits the success of the tour - most people find the greater their involvement, the greater their enjoyment of the whole trip.

Africa is an adventure destination and travelling here is not always predictable so be prepared to "expect the unexpected' in difficulties or delays which might come our way! However, you'll soon find that the diversity of the African landscape, the wildlife and the communities we pass on our way, make the sometimes rough travel and long driving days worthwhile.

Come with a sense of adventure and a flexible attitude and you will be sure to enjoy your Acacia overland tour across this amazing continent.

TOUR STYLE
Acacia Overland Tour.

WHAT'S INCLUDED
Fully equipped safari vehicle, camping and cooking equipment including sleeping mattress, all road tolls and vehicle taxes, transport, services of driver and tour leader, meals as indicated.

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED
Local Payment excursions, visas, travel insurance, flights, departure taxes, airport transfers, sleeping bag, optional activities, drinks, tips, meals not mentioned in itinerary, items of a personal nature. NB: Meals on Zanzibar are not included in tour price or your Local Payment. Allow USD15-20/day.

ACCOMMODATION
We use 2-person dome tents with fly sheets, built in ground sheets, zip-up insect screens and thick foam sleeping mattresses. We mainly use designated campsites, which usually have permanent wash and shower facilities, electricity points and sometimes even a small shop and bar/restaurant. On Zanzibar we use basic tourist class local hotels.

TRANSPORT
24-seater self contained, custom-built safari truck with onboard tables, plug sockets, freezer, library, i-pod jack, safety features and 70-litre individual lockers.

MEALS
Meals included are – Breakfast (B) x26, Lunch (L) x22, Dinner (D) x23
These meals are prepared in camp by the group and help preparing the meals is invited. Most dietary requirements can be catered for on the road. Please ensure you inform Acacia of any special requirements when you book or at your earliest convenience.

GAME PARK VISITS
In order to maximise the quality of game driving and to comply with local authority rulings, some of our National Park visits and game viewing is carried out using services provided by local African ground handlers. As well as enhancing our experience it also allows us to contribute at a 'grassroots' level to local economies from which local people benefit. Where used these local services are paid from the Local Payment.

TOUR PREPARATION

BOOKING INFORMATION
When you make a confirmed booking for your tour you will be sent your booking documents and a pre-departure booklet with detailed information to help you prepare for your trip. Once you have paid in full you will receive a Travel Voucher giving details of your joining hotel. Nairobi and Johannesburg are well served by a number of airlines and your travel agent can advise on flights to the start of the tour.

JOINING INFORMATION
This tour starts in Nairobi and finishes in Johannesburg. **The pre-departure meeting is held at 18:00** on the evening prior to departure. **The tour begins at 08:00 on day 1 and ends on day 31 in Johannesburg.**

Meeting point in **Nairobi**:	**Boulevard Hotel**
Address:	Harry Thuku Rd PO Box 42831 Nairobi
Contact details:	Tel. +245 2 337221 / 227567/8/9 Fax +245 2 334071
E-mail:	hotel@hotelboulevardkenya.com
Pre-dep. meeting:	18:00 prior to departure day
Tour start time:	08:00 on day 1
Tour end point in **Johannesburg**:	**Backpackers Ritz**
Address:	1A North Rd Dunkeld West Johannesburg
Contact details:	Tel. +27 11 325 7125/2520 Fax +27 11 325 2521
E-mail:	ritz@iafrica.com
Tour end time:	Late afternoon/ early evening of day 31

PRE TOUR ACCOMMODATION

This tour departs Nairobi on day 1; we strongly recommend therefore that you plan to arrive the day before departure to overcome any jet-lag and to acclimatise to Africa. We would be happy to book pre-tour accommodation for you – please call or email us (or speak to your agent) with your arrival details and accommodation requirements.

However please *book early* to avoid disappointment and the risk of having to find more expensive (or less convenient) lodgings.

If time allows, you may wish to plan a night or two after your tour in Johannesburg. Our drop off point is a friendly and informal hostel where you can book various daytrips in and around the Jo'burg area. Accommodation is usually available locally on arrival.

See below for a guide to extra accommodation costs. These prices are correct at time of print but are subject to change so please check with Acacia or your agent for current prices.

Description	Price	Description	Price
Nairobi		**Johannesburg**	
Pre tour accommodation – triple share pppn	£29	Post tour accommodation – Dorm pppn	£14
Pre tour accommodation – Twin pppn	£38	Post tour accommodation – Twin pppn	£20
Pre tour accommodation – Single pppn	£57	Post tour accommodation – Single pppn	£29

WHAT TO BRING

Please try to keep your luggage to a minimum, bearing in mind that most airlines impose a 20kg limit. It should be brought in a soft holdall or rucksack along with a smaller day bag. You will need to bring a mixture of lightweight clothing and warm clothing for the evenings and early morning game drives. You also need a sleeping bag (and small pillow if preferred). We recommended you pack a small torch or headlamp, mosquito spray and a money pouch/ belt that can be easily hidden. Please try to avoid bringing unnecessary valuables and use your hotel safe to store the bulk of your money, passport, and airline tickets. A full 'What to Bring' list is included in our **pre-departure booklet (online version)**, issued when you book.

VACCINATIONS/HEALTH

The table below indicates the vaccinations suggested for travel on this tour but **should be treated as a guide only.** You should seek professional medical advice from your GP or clinic at least six weeks prior to departure.

Please be aware that the areas visited on this tour are **malarial.** We strongly recommend your seeking professional medical advice for the appropriate anti-malarial tablets.

Country	Tetanus	Diphtheria	Polio	Hepatitis A	Hepatitis B	Typhoid	Meningitis	Rabies	Yellow Fever	Malaria
Kenya	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R*	R
Tanzania	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R*	R
Malawi	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R*	R
Zambia	R	R	R	R	R	R	-	R	C	R
Botswana	R	R	R	R	-	R	-	-	*	-
S. Africa	R	R	R	R	-	R	-	-	*	R

C = Compulsory, **R** = Recommended, * = If travelling from infected countries a certificate of proof may be required.

VISA REQUIREMENTS

The table below indicates the visas required for travel to the countries on this tour but **should be treated as a guide only.** At least one month prior to travel seek confirmation from embassies or a visa specialist, that these requirements are still current. For UK citizens the Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO) offers free up-to-date travel info: www.fco.gov.uk For other nationalities a number of travel advice websites are listed on the Acacia website.

Nationality	UK	AUS	NZ	USA	CAN	BEL	IRE	NED	DEN	ITA	GER	AUT	SWE	FIN	NOR	MEX	KOR
Kenya	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Tanzania	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Malawi	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Zambia	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Botswana	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes
S. Africa	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No

MONEY MATTERS

PERSONAL EXPENSES

Naturally you will require extra money for your own personal spending on the tour, for snacks, drinks, souvenirs, tips and items of a personal nature. Everybody has different spending habits but as a guideline we suggest you budget US$15-25 per day. Also keep US$ cash for relevant airport taxes and visas needed, optional activities and any additional accommodation before or after your tour.

- **Spending money** is best carried as cash in US dollars, Sterling or Euro which you then exchange into local currency on arrival and as you go. Your guide can advise how and when you can change the rest of your money throughout the tour.
- **Currencies** are as follows: Kenya – Kenyan Shilling; Tanzania (including Zanzibar): Tanzania Shilling; Malawi - Malawi Kwacha; Zambia – Zambia Kwacha; Botswana – Pula; South Africa : Rand.
- **ATM machines** are found in Nairobi, Arusha, Dar es Salaam, Zanzibar and in Livingstone BUT please note they are sometimes unreliable and therefore we recommend you do not rely on them. Please remember that ATMs will only dispense local currency and will not provide you with US Dollars cash (and therefore cannot be used to draw your Local Payment).
- **Credit cards** can be used to pay for optional activities although charges may be may be high by western standards (+/- 5%).
- **Travellers cheques** can be difficult to cash but make suitable emergency funds.

We recommend you bring your spending money in several different ways (cash, t/cheques, cards).

LOCAL PAYMENT

A Local Payment (LP) is to be paid to your tour leader at the group meeting on the first evening.

The LP fund is administered by the tour leader in conjunction with the group and covers most meals, all game drives using our own vehicle, campsite fees and meals prepared at the truck (usually two or three per day). You can choose to pay either the Basic Local Payment at the beginning, and then pay for your excursions along the way, or else you may pay for everything up front in the Fully Inclusive Local Payment.

For the SOUTH EAST ADVENTURE 31 DAY tour:

The Basic Local Payment is: USD 1025 per person
The Inclusive Local Payment is: USD 1545 per person

Payment must be made in **US$ cash in clean, post-2005 edition notes**. Traveller's cheques and credit cards can**not** be accepted as means of payment. The LP amounts set out in the brochure are estimates of local costs

at the time of printing. It is subject to inflation, exchange rate changes and local price rises. These may vary from the amounts set out in the brochure or website and on rare occasion where there is a shortfall, passengers may be asked to contribute further.

TIPPING

This is always a matter for your own individual discretion but as in many areas where tourism is an important contributor to the economy, it has become customary to give a small gratuity to local staff, including your tour leader and driver, at the end of a tour if services rendered have been to your satisfaction.

OPTIONAL ACTIVITES

In order to give you maximum flexibility on tour we offer a number of optional activities on the tour. To help budget, approximate prices are listed below (in US$ unless otherwise stated. subject to change and availability).

Activity	Price	Activity	Price
Masai Mara		Scuba Diving	$40
Village visit	$25	Horse Riding (half day)	$45
Tanzania		**Livingstone**	
Serengeti Balloon Ride	$499	Vic Falls bungi (single/tandem)	$120
Camel Ride	$30	Game walk	$75
Zanzibar (Tanzania)		Croc farm tour	$30
Scuba Diving (Mnemba island)	$150	Gorge Swing	$60
Snorkelling Day Trip	$30-45	Horse Riding	$75 - $110
Accommodation & Food (per day)	$35	White Water Rafting/ Riverboarding	$145/ $175
Spice Tour	$25	Flight over the Falls	$130
Dolphin excursion	$35-$40	Zambezi Sunset Cruise	$60
Malawi		Lion Encounter	$130
Snorkelling	$20		

INSURANCE

It is a booking condition of Acacia that you have full travel insurance valid for the duration of your tour to cover you for medical emergency and repatriation to your home country. Your guide will ask you for a copy of this when you join the tour. It is also important that you leave a copy of your insurance with the person nominated as your emergency contact. We can recommend a respected, specialist travel insurance provider for this tour. Please contact Acacia for more information.

Useful Swahili Words

Hello	Jambo	**Yes**	Ndiyo
How's things?	Habari gani?	**No**	Hapana
Thank you	Asante	**Bring here**	Lete hapa
Mister	Bwana	**To eat**	Kula
Go away	Enda	**Today**	Leo
Slowly	Pole pole	**Tomorrow**	Kesho
Coffee	Kahawa	**To sleep**	Kulala
Tea	Chai	**Goodbye**	Kwaheri
Milk	Maziwa	**How much?**	Ngapi?
Water	Maji	**Come here**	Njoo hapa
Sugar	Sukari	**Welcome again**	Karibu tena
Food	Chakula	**See you**	Tutaonana
Please	Tafadali	**No, thanks**	Hapana santé

ACACIA ON THE ROAD

RESPONSIBLE TRAVEL

We strongly believe that you get the most out of a journey by respecting the culture and people of the places you visit. On our tours we try to travel in a way that benefits the communities we pass through and minimises negative impact on the environment. This can be from ensuring the campsites we use are clean when we leave and dressing respectfully in conservative areas to getting involved with local charity projects. We ask that you are open to this when you travel with us. Being proactive in

responsible travel helps develop cross-cultural understanding and friendships with the local people, and will greatly enhance your experience in Africa.

GET CONNECTED
Join our facebook group www.facebook.com/AcaciaAfrica and get connected with other Acacia travelers, check out the pictures, videos and feedback from their tours and meet up with other people booked on your tour

Follow us on twitter @AcaciaAfrica and get the latest buzz. Got a question? Ask us on twitter!

Follow our blogs from the road http://acaciaontheroad.blogspot.com/ and http://africastuckonyou.blogspot.com/ get regular updates from our crew on the road as well as other Acacia Travellers

Don't forget to sign up to our newsletter to get regular updates and special offers www.acacia-africa.com

For information on our Premium Overlanding, Acacia Small Group Safaris, Short Safari's & Treks, Short Breaks & City Stays, Voluntours and Dive Tours please visit www.acacia-africa.com

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