

ACACIA AFRICA

EAST AFRICAN EXPLORER – TOUR DOSSIER

Tour Code EAE29

JOHANNESBURG – NAIROBI

29 DAYS

Tour Departure – **07:00**

Pre-departure Meeting – **18:00 day prior to departure**

HIGHLIGHTS

Greater Kruger
Chobe National Park
Livingstone – Victoria Falls
Kafue River excursion
Lusaka
Lake Malawi
Dar es Salaam
Zanzibar
Serengeti National Park
Olduvai Gorge
Ngorongoro Crater Conservation Area
Meserani Snake Park
Masai Village Walk
Great Rift Valley
Nairobi



From the east to the south this tour offers world renowned 'Big 5' game parks, friendly beaches of laid-back Lake Malawi, the tropical paradise of Zanzibar and the mighty Zambezi River as it spills over the thunderous Victoria Falls. Ideal for game viewing and anyone wanting to see the best of Africa!

INTENDED ITINERARY

Whilst it is our intention to adhere to the route described below, there is a certain amount of flexibility 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: 29 Days

Countries visited: South Africa, Botswana, Zambia, Malawi, Tanzania, Kenya.

DAY 1 - 2

Greater Kruger and National Park

From Johannesburg - South Africa's commercial capital - we travel via scenic Mpumalanga with its beautiful scenery and dramatic escarpment views, to South Africa's most famed national park - Kruger. The fences between the park's borders and private game reserves on the fringes of the national park have been taken down to form an area of some 24,000 square kilometres - the 'Greater Kruger' with wildlife free to roam the entire area. A wealth of wildlife inhabits this area, from the miniscule dwarf mongoose to Africa's 'Big Five' (leopard, lion, elephant, buffalo, rhino), as well as very diverse birdlife. We spend two nights within the Kruger area and take game drives across the savannah to glimpse some of the wildlife that inhabits the park.

DAY 3 - 5

Francistown, Nata and Chobe National Park

Leaving Kruger and travelling north we spend a couple of days crossing from South Africa into the vast grasslands of Botswana travelling via Francistown, Nata and skirting edge of the Makgadikgadi pans to Kasane and the Chobe National Park. Chobe is a vast reserve of some 11,000 square kilometres. The Chobe River itself and its lush plains and forests support a remarkable variety of wildlife.

Chobe is perhaps most well known for its elephant populations. Some 20,000 elephants are thought to reside in this area of Africa. We take an afternoon cruise – an ideal opportunity to relax and watch for hippo, buffalo, elephant and possibly lion, come to the river to bathe and drink in the lowering light.

DAY 6 - 9

Livingstone – Victoria Falls (Zambia)

Moving on from Chobe we take the ferry across the Zambezi River into Zambia and drive the short distance to Livingstone. We set up camp at the Waterfront Resort campsite on the banks of the Zambezi, a few kilometres upstream from the Victoria Falls. The campsite reception can give advice and information about the various optional activities available in the area (typically these include rafting, canoeing, bungee, abseiling, gorge swinging, elephant and horse riding, scenic flights, river cruises), to help you plan your time. But whatever you do, don't forget a visit to the Victoria Falls themselves. At various times of year the spray can be seen from up to 20 or 30 kilometres away, 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 and offers a good selection of reasonably priced meals and snacks throughout the day (allow US\$15 -\$30 per meal). Relax and enjoy these few days at your own leisure. Alternatively, take a taxi into Livingstone to try local fare.

DAY 10 - 17

Kafue River - Lusaka - Malawi

From Livingstone, we head north-east into Zambia and stop at the Kafue River to take a short journey by boat on the river to a community camp. We spend the night and have the opportunity to visit the neighbouring village and meet some of the local people who live here. The following morning we return to our vehicle and continue our journey passing through Lusaka on the way to Malawi. We descend to Lake Malawi which covers almost a fifth of the country's area and provides the source of livelihood for many of the Malawi people. Fishermen, fish traders, canoe and net makers all ply their trade, and a common sight is that of a fisherman in his *bwato*, (dugout canoe made from a hollowed out tree trunk) fishing on the lake at the break of day.

Enjoy a day or two on the beach. Try some of the water-sports typically available, or else simply relax and enjoy the warm fresh waters of Lake Malawi. There is the opportunity to meet the local people, generally known as amongst the friendliest in Africa to gain an insight into their way of life.

DAY 18 - 22

Dar es Salaam - Zanzibar

Leaving Malawi we cross the border and climb into the hills of western Tanzania. We continue towards the Indian Ocean coast and the port city of Dar es Salaam ('Haven of Peace'). The route runs through the small Mikumi National Park and we may, with luck, spot forest elephant or giraffe feeding near the side of the road. 'Dar' is Tanzania's hub of commerce and industry - a hot, humid and bustling city. Our camp is beside the beach just outside the city centre and we usually have time to browse the curio markets. Ebony wood carvings are a good buy in Dar – but be sure to bargain hard.

Dar is also our 'leaping off' point for our excursion 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 such as John Hanning Speke, Richard Burton and David Livingstone and was once a major trading centre for spices. Indeed the spice trade is centuries old: Zanzibaris have traded with the people of the Arabian peninsula for generations, plying the ocean in simple dhow sailboats relying on the annual trade winds for passage. The Arab influence is evident in the architecture and diverse street stall offerings of the capital, 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 also a staging post for slaves brought from the African interior being held before being shipped 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 23 – 25 River Camp - Arusha

Back on the mainland we continue northward to the great game parks of East Africa. We may take a night beside the scenic Pangani River en route, or else continue a little further on if time is on our side. If the weather is clear we will gain a view of the magnificent snow-capped Mount Kilimanjaro, Africa's highest peak (5895m). We drive past the town of Moshi and eventually reach Arusha, a city situated exactly mid way between Cape Town and Cairo. This is Tanzania's 'safari capital', a city of some 2 million people, a bustling melting pot of markets, vehicles and people – all nestling in the shadow of the brooding Mt Meru (4556m). With time to explore town we head out to our camp just outside the city at the edge of the Masai plains. Here there is the opportunity to walk to one of the local Masai villages. You can visit a small but highly interesting Masai museum, and the snake enclosure at the Meserani Snake Park.

Finally, wash the African dust down in the camp's popular 'bush' bar.

More importantly, it is from here that we prepare for our two night/three day excursion to the Serengeti National Park and the Ngorongoro Crater.

DAY 26 - 21 Serengeti National Park – Olduvai Gorge Ngorongoro Crater - Nairobi

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 here 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.

After a last night at camp, we make our way across the Masai steppe to the Kenyan frontier. Completing formalities at Namanga we drive the last stretch of road to Nairobi, Kenya's capital, where our tour ends.

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.

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. There may be a change of tour vehicle and tour leaders at Livingstone.

MEALS

Meals included are – Breakfast (B) x25, Lunch (L) x20, Dinner (D) x21.

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. These local services are included in 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 both 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 Johannesburg and finishes in Nairobi. **The pre-departure meeting is held at 18:00** on the evening prior to departure. **The tour begins at 07:00 on day 1 and ends on day 29 in Nairobi.**

Meeting point in Johannesburg : Address:	Backpackers Ritz 1A North Rd Dunkeld West Johannesburg
Contact details:	Tel. +27 11 325 7125/2520 Fax +27 11 325 2521
E-mail:	ritz@iafrica.com
Website:	www.backpackers-ritz.co.za
Pre-dep. meeting: Tour start time:	18:00 prior to departure day 07:00 on day 1
Tour end point in Nairobi : Address:	Boulevard Hotel 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
Tour end time:	Late afternoon/ early evening of day 29

PRE TOUR ACCOMMODATION

This tour departs Johannesburg early on day 1; we strongly recommend 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 Nairobi. Accommodation is usually available locally (on arrival), although may be booked in advance. Nairobi has a very interesting city market and a variety of souvenir stalls and bookshops, as well as a number of very impressive yet reasonably priced restaurants.

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 (£)
Johannesburg		Nairobi	
Pre tour accommodation – Dorm pppn	£16	Post tour accommodation – triple share pppn	£35
Pre tour accommodation – Twin pppn	£23	Post tour accommodation – Twin pppn	£40
Pre tour accommodation – Single pppn	£30	Post tour accommodation – Single pppn	£61

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. Please also note you must be in possession of a valid **Yellow Fever** Vaccination Certificate for entry to Zanzibar.

Country	Tetanus	Diphtheria	Polio	Hepatitis A	Hepatitis B	Typhoid	Meningitis	Rabies	Yellow Fever	Malaria
South Africa	R	R	R	R	-	R	-	-	*	R
Botswana	R	R	R	R	-	R	-	R	*	R
Zambia	R	R	R	R	R	R	-	R	R	R
Malawi	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
Tanzania	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R*	R
Kenya	R	R	R	R	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
S. Africa	No	Yes	No														
Botswana	No	Yes															
Zambia	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes									
Malawi	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes										
Tanzania	Yes																
Kenya	Yes																

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, Livingstone and throughout South Africa 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 (some cash, some t/cheques, some cards); your guide can best advise on what to use where.

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 EAST AFRICA EXPLORER 29 DAY tour:

The Basic Local Payment is: USD 675 per person

The Inclusive Local Payment is: USD 1195 per person

Payment must be made in **US\$ cash in clean, post-2005 edition notes**. Traveller's cheques and credit cards **cannot** 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 ACTIVITIES

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

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 refer to: http://www.acacia-africa.com/travel_info/travel_documents.php for more details.

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



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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