

# ACACIA AFRICA

## OCEAN TO GORILLAS – TOUR DOSSIER

Tour Code OTG29

DAR ES SALAAM - KAMPALA

29 DAYS

Tour Departure – 08:00

Pre-departure Meeting – On the ferry to Zanzibar

### HIGHLIGHTS

Zanzibar  
Ngorongoro Crater Conservation Area  
Olduvai Gorge  
Serengeti National Park  
Meserani Snake Park  
Masai Mara National Reserve  
Samburu National Park  
Great Rift Valley  
Lakes Nakuru, Baringo and Bogoria  
Jinja & Kampala  
Queen Elizabeth National Park  
Chimpanzee excursion  
Bwindi Impenetrable National Park  
Mountain Gorilla Trek



Travel to the terraced hillsides of Uganda and trek in search of the mountain gorillas in their own hilly jungle habitat before exploring the Serengeti plains, visiting the Masai Mara National Reserve, Ngorongoro Crater and gazing at the snow-capped Kilimanjaro on the way to the spice markets and clear Indian Ocean on Zanzibar – an ideal insight into the best of East 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:** Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda

#### DAY 1-3

Dar es Salaam - Zanzibar

Dar es Salaam is Tanzania's main trading port and commercial city; it is a bustling city of high rises, colourful markets and Arab influenced architecture. 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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 daytours 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. It is advisable to set aside US\$ 20-30 for meals per day. 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 4 - 5**

Zanzibar – Dar es Salaam, Arusha

Returning from Zanzibar to the African mainland, we join our Overland tour truck and travel inland to the great game parks of East Africa. On the way north, if the weather is clear, we gain a view of the magnificent snow-capped Mount Kilimanjaro, Africa's highest peak at 5895m. Our next stop is Arusha, a city of some 2-3 million people situated mid way between Cape Town and Cairo and generally known as Tanzania's 'safari capital'. The city is a bustling melting pot of markets, vehicles and tribesmen, nestling in the shadow of the brooding Mt. Meru (4556m). After time to explore the markets, we head to our camp outside the city on the edge of the Masai plains at Meserani. Here there is the opportunity for camel riding or to visit one of the local Maasai villages; there is also a small but very interesting Maasai museum, and you can see snakes, small and large in the snake enclosure at the Snake Park. For those who are interested there is a small school and clinic not far from the camp. Finally enjoy Tanzanian hospitality at its best in the lively bush bar. It is from here that we prepare for our two night/three day excursion to the Serengeti National Park and the Ngorongoro Crater.

#### **DAY 6 - 9**

Arusha, Serengeti National Park,  
Olduvai Gorge, Ngorongoro Crater

We transfer from our truck to smaller 4WD vehicles more suitable for gamepark viewing and drive across the Rift Valley to the Ngorongoro Crater and Serengeti national parks. The open plains and wide horizons of the Serengeti, where thousands of hooved animals roam is perhaps one of the most evocative images of Africa. Indeed, the name itself, 'Serengeti', derives from the Masai word Siringitu - meaning 'the place where the land

moves on for ever'. At any time of year game viewing in the Serengeti is highly rewarding and camping out in the park where lion, elephant and hyena roam is an unforgettable experience.

Leaving the Serengeti's plains (or sometimes on the way into the Serengeti) , we pass the Olduvai Gorge, where Drs Louis and Mary Leakey made ground breaking discoveries of early man in East Africa. Our next night is spent camping on the rim of the Ngorongoro Crater. At 326 square kilometres in area, this is Africa's largest intact caldera known in particular for its concentration of animals. From the rim at 2400m, you have sweeping views of the crater floor some 700m below. The following morning, we drive down the steep access road onto the Crater floor for a morning game driving. With luck we will see some, if not all of Africa's 'Big Five' (leopard, lion, elephant, buffalo and rhino), as well as hippo, hyena, antelope, buck and the prolific birdlife of the area.

#### **DAY 10 - 12**

Arusha - Nairobi

After gamedriving in the Ngorongoro Crater we return to Arusha for the night before making our way across the Masai steppe to the Kenyan border and on to Nairobi. Here in Kenya's burgeoning capital we have the opportunity to rest and relax for a day. Take the time to explore the city or check emails, shop for souvenirs or simply have a break from travelling for the day.

#### **DAY 13 - 14**

**Samburu Game Reserve**

We leave Nairobi and journey north, passing the iconic, snow-capped Mt Kenya en route to the semi-arid Northern Frontier District, homeland to the Samburu people. We continue through the town of Isiolo to the Samburu National Reserve.

Our campsite is near the Ewaso Nyiro river (sometimes written Uaso Ngiro, 'dark waters'), a simple camp setting with basic facilities. After setting up in camp, we may rest for while during the heat of the day before we take our first game drive in this (normally) arid but beautiful reserve. Samburu contains rare and endemic species such as the reticulated giraffe, 'Grevy's' zebra, the Beisa oryx, the Somali ostrich and the gerenuk as well as antelope and a variety of birdlife. By the time the sun edges toward the horizon most of the group will be looking forward to dinner and we return to camp for the evening and overnight.

The following day is spent in the Reserve. We usually divide the day into morning and afternoon game drives (wildlife is normally more active at these times) with a rest during the heart of the middle day.

#### **DAY 15**

**Great Rift Valley, Lake Baringo**

Tourist class hotel

This morning we return south, passing back through Isiolo and before turning off to Thompson Falls and the Great Rift Valley. Lake Baringo is one of two freshwater lakes in the Rift Valley and is home to crocodile, hippo and over 400 species of birds. The lake is also well stocked with fish, so much so that the local people – the Njemps – say the crocodiles are so well fed (on fish) that they have forgotten the taste of mammal flesh! We have the option of hiring a boat for a cruise on the lake to view the wildlife. Alternatively enjoy a guided nature walk around the lake shore. The evening is spent at a tourist class hotel for dinner and overnight.

#### **DAY 16**

**Lake Bogoria National Reserve and Lake Nakuru National Park**

This morning drive the short distance to Lake Bogoria National Reserve, a relatively small alkaline lake in the northern Rift. The eastern shore abuts the Rift Valley escarpment and in various places there are hot springs – remnants of the volcanic activity that formed the Great Rift Valley millennia ago. Regrettably the springs are too hot for swimming but they and the lake do attract water-birds such as flamingos, cormorants, pelicans and kingfishers. Leaving Bogoria we travel further down the Rift Valley to Nakuru and one of Kenya's best known gameparks: Lake Nakuru National Park. The alkaline waters are the perfect habitat for the algae upon which flamingos (in particular) feed. At times these birds gather in such numbers that they form a pink 'fringe' around the lake shore. Our gamedrive encircles the lake giving ample opportunity to view not only flamingos, but also pelicans, storks, ibis, kingfishers, jacanas, rollers, and the beautiful glossy starling – as well as the larger game such as rhino, buffalo, zebra, impala, baboon, monkey, and the rare Rothschild giraffe. More difficult to see but present nevertheless are the still more elusive leopard and lion. Finally, we make our way out of the park to our camp for dinner and overnight.

### **DAY 17 - 18**

#### **Masai Mara Game Reserve**

We rise early for our drive to the Masai Mara. This is a long (ish) drive crossing the Rift Valley, passing through undulating grasslands to the town of Narok and then on past the remote Loita Hills. As we approach the Mara' you may begin to see wildlife on either side of the road - even though we are still well outside the park boundaries. Road conditions are not good and prone rain damage but eventually we arrive at camp.

We spend the next two days in and around the Masai Mara. There is usually time for two game drives/ day (morning and afternoon) with time to relax at camp in middle of the day when wildlife is usually less active. The landscape accords with many people's idea of 'classic' Africa, rolling grasslands, open vistas, distant horizons, with zebra, antelope, giraffe, wildebeest and other large mammals grazing the open plains. The 'Big Five' (elephant, rhino, buffalo, lion and leopard) are all found here and we would hope to see at least some of these in our time here.

The Mara is also traditional homeland to the Maasai people. In colonial times the Maasai were a highly warlike tribe and in many ways they are still the people that – at least outwardly - resist the influx of western culture, as can be seen in their distinctive dress and way of life. In recent years the Maasai have become reconciled to the growth of tourism and indeed learned to benefit from it since the 'Mara' reserve is largely subject to their control. Time permitting it may be possible to arrange a (optional) visit to one of the Maasai manyattas (villages) for an insight into their traditional way of life. If you are interested please speak to your guide who will try to arrange it.

### **DAY 19**

#### **Nairobi**

We leave the Mara and head back across the Rift Valley to Nairobi. Time allowing (and on request) we may stop along the way to browse at local craft markets where you can pick up some last minute souvenirs (bargain hard!). Nairobi has seen rapid growth in recent years but has a comparatively small city centre, a highly interesting city market (great for sharpening your bargaining skills!), as well as craft shops, book shops and plenty of cafes and restaurants to sit and relax.

### **DAY 20 - 21**

#### **Nakuru – Eldoret**

We leave the Kenyan capital and descend into the 'Great Rift Valley' to Lake Nakuru. We have another gamedrive in this jewel of a park and after overnighting continue on the main route west to Eldoret, and the Uganda frontier.

## **DAY 22 - 23**

### **Eldoret to Kampala**

Kenya is East Africa's most popular destination and has a long tradition of tourism and of welcoming visitors. Nairobi, the Kenyan capital, has seen rapid growth in recent years but still has a comparatively small city centre and interesting city market, numerous craft shops, book shops and plenty of cafes and restaurants. We recommend you arrive the day before the tour departure in order to relax and overcome any jetlag.

We depart Nairobi early on Day One and descend into the 'Great Rift Valley', an enormous cleft in the Earth's surface stretching from the Red Sea to Madagascar but with particularly marked escarpments here in Kenya.

Our first stop is Lake Nakuru National Park, a relatively small park (by African standards) on the Rift Valley floor. The shallow soda lake attracts a huge variety of birdlife – especially flamingos, which may gather in such numbers that (when viewed from above) they form a strikingly pink 'fringe' around the lake-shore. However Lake Nakuru is not simply a bird sanctuary, it is also home to buffalo, lion, rhino, leopard, warthog, baboon, antelope, and a variety of smaller animals. A delightful introduction to East Africa's wildlife diversity. From Nakuru we continue northwest to Eldoret, and the Uganda frontier.

## **DAY 24 - 25**

### **Kampala – Queen Elizabeth – Lake Bunyonyi**

We cross into Uganda, Winston Churchill's 'Pearl of Africa' and to the capital, Kampala. This is an attractive hilly city, bustling with roadside traders, markets and busy matatu (mini-bus taxi) stands.

From Kampala, we travel west to Queen Elizabeth National Park. Uganda is a wonderfully fertile country of green terraced hillsides, lush banana plantations, steep mountains and tangled forests.

We enter the QENP, with a view (further to the west) of the mountains that separate Uganda from central Africa. We gamedrive in the morning in search of the Uganda Kob (a type of antelope) as well as elephant, lion, buffalo, hyena and hippo. Nearby the park we visit the Kyambura Gorge for the trek to see the chimpanzees. Unlike the larger gorilla, chimps live mostly in the trees and so our viewing is necessarily at some distance. However the experience of seeing man's closest relative in the wild is a memorable one.

Continuing deep into the Kigezi Highlands we come to the picturesque Lake Bunyoni, an ancient flooded valley, where we usually base ourselves for the gorilla trekking.

## **DAY 26 - 29**

### **Gorilla Trek - Kampala**

This region of Africa is home to the world's remaining 700 mountain gorillas, many of which inhabit the Bwindi Impenetrable National Park. [Occasionally we may travel into neighbouring Rwanda to trek for the gorillas.]

On the day of our trek we gather in the early morning to meet our local guide and tracker. Walking in small groups we trek into the thick rainforest. The trek can be demanding at times with uneven terrain and hilly rainforest but the privilege of spending time with a family of these gentle primates makes the effort well worthwhile. To many people, even those who stay in Africa longer than this two week tour, the day's trek and time with the gorillas remains their most exciting wildlife encounter in Africa.

The usual procedure, once we have located the gorilla 'family', is to squat or sit down and simply observe them for around an hour – the time set by the Uganda Wildlife Authority (the national body charged with controlling and maintaining the gorillas in Uganda). Gorillas are sociable creatures, living in groups between 12 and 20 individuals, usually led by an 'alpha male' (the 'silverback' - so called because of the silver hair on his back which grows once the male gorilla attains maturity). Most people find that the gorillas are remarkably human-like at close quarters – particularly in the social interaction between family members and in 'play' activity in which the young engage. Photography is permitted (although not with a flash and there are restrictions for those who wish to use a video camera.)

Your permit allows you one trek and gorilla viewing (time limited to one hour). However because the authorities maintain strict limits on the number of visitors allowed to view the gorillas each day we may spend several days in the area while all passengers in our group complete the trek and viewing.

Finally we return to Kampala where our tour ends on day 29.

**NB** Depending on the availability of gorilla permits the tour itinerary may vary in day to day running order from the above running order which is based on the brochure itinerary. From time to time we may visit neighbouring countries, eg Rwanda, for the gorilla trek (instead of Uganda) and this may entail extra visa fees although we shall endeavour to advise you before departure of any significant change to the tour itinerary.

## 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

(a) Acacia Overland Tour: days 1-10 and 20-29.

(b) The 7 day Kenyan section (days 13-19) is operated by Acacia Small Groups. Travel is in a smaller group and in smaller - 8-10 seater vehicles - with one driver/guide, and focuses on a smaller area (in this case: Kenya). Campsites vary in standard but are generally clean and secure but may at certain times of year experience shortages of some facilities or supplies. Accommodation varies from camping (equipment provided) to small locally owned tourist class hotels.

Our Small Group safaris are operated by a locally based (African) ground handler who has maintained standards at a high level over a period of time. We believe that working with a local operator in this way assists the community to benefit in a sustainable way from tourism. At the same time it provides our clients with the extensive local knowledge and enthusiasm of the local staff and guides employed to ensure your safari is as enjoyable as it is memorable.

## **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.

## **ACCOMMODATION**

We use 2-person dome tents with flysheets, 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.

**NB 1** Accommodation and meals in Nairobi on nights 11, 12 and 19 are **not included** in the tour price or Local Payment. Please put aside between US\$40-70 per night for meals and accommodation.

## **TRANSPORT**

(a) For days 1-11 and 20-29 we use 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. For Serengeti/Ngorongoro excursion transport is by 4WD land-rover (or similar).

(b) For days 13 – 19: the tour takes place in a safari minibus (normally 8-10 seater) smaller than the overland truck but more suited to Kenyan conditions and gameparks.

## **MEALS**

Meals included are – Breakfast (B) x25, Lunch (L) x26, Dinner (D) x25

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. NB: meals are not included on Zanzibar.

## **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 Inclusive Local Payment.

## **GORILLA PERMITS**

The Uganda Wildlife Authority imposes strict regulations regarding the gorilla trekking permits. One of these is that permits must be booked and paid in advance. In order for us to do this we must collect your permit money, in addition to your normal deposit, at the time of booking. Like your deposit, the permit money is not refundable if you cancel your tour. The permits currently (Oct 2010) cost US\$510 per person. Please ask your agent or Acacia for the equivalent amount in your own currency.

On rare occasions, subject to permit availability, we may purchase trekking permits to view the gorillas in neighbouring Rwanda.

## **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. Dar es Salaam and Kampala (Entebbe airport) are well served by airlines. Your agent will advise on flights to and from the start and finish of your tour.

### JOINING INFORMATION

This tour starts in Dar es Salaam. **The tour begins at 08:00 on day 1. A pre-departure meeting is held by the tour leader on the ferry to Zanzibar. The tour ends on day 29 in Kampala (normally late afternoon).**

Meeting point in <b>Dar es Salaam</b>	<b>Mikadi Beach</b>
Address:	Kigamboni Dar es Salaam Contact details: Tel: + 255 (0)754 370 269 <b>E-mail</b> : <a href="mailto:info@mikadibeach.com">info@mikadibeach.com</a>
Website:	<a href="http://www.mikadibeach.com">www.mikadibeach.com</a>
Pre-dep. meeting:	On the ferry to Zanzibar
Tour start time:	08:00 on day 1
Tour end point in Kampala:	<b>Red Chilli Hideaway</b>
Address:	<b>Plot 17, Gangaram Road</b> <b>Mbuya</b> <b>Kampala</b>
Contact details:	Tel. +256 (0)414 223 903 or +256 772 509 150
Tour end time:	Late afternoon/ early evening of day 29

### PRE TOUR ACCOMMODATION

This tour departs Dar es Salaam 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 Kampala. Accommodation is usually available locally (on arrival), although may be booked in advance.

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 (£)
<b>Dar es Salaam</b>		<b>Kampala</b>	
Pre tour accommodation Twin pppn	£10	Post tour accommodation – dorm share pppn	£ 7
Pre tour accommodation Single pppn	£19	Post tour accommodation – Twin pppn	£10
		Post tour accommodation – Single pppn	£12

### 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
Tanzania	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R*	R
Kenya	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R*	R
Uganda	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](http://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
Tanzania	Yes																
Kenya	Yes																
Uganda	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. 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; Uganda: Uganda Shilling; Tanzania (including Zanzibar): Tanzania Shilling.
- **ATM machines** are found in Nairobi, Kampala, Arusha, Dar es Salaam and on Zanzibar BUT please note they are sometimes unreliable and therefore we recommend you do not rely on them!.

- **Credit cards** can be used to pay for optional activities although charges 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 pre -departure meeting. 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.

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 will be asked to contribute further. Conversely, where there is a surplus of LP funds at the end of the tour, it will be refunded equally amongst all passengers.

## 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
<b>Zanzibar (Tanzania)</b>		<b>Tanzania</b>	
Scuba Diving (Mnemba island)	\$150	Serengeti Balloon Ride	\$499
Snorkelling Day Trip	\$30-45	Camel Ride	\$30
Food (per day)	\$20-35	Village visit	\$25
Spice Tour	\$25	<b>Uganda</b>	USD
Dolphin excursion	\$35-\$40	Quad Biking	\$50

## 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](http://www.acacia-africa.com/travel_info/travel_documents.php) for more details.



**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](http://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](http://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](http://www.acacia-africa.com)**



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