

ACACIA AFRICA

CAPE TOWN TO KENYA – TOUR DOSSIER

Tour Code CTK58

CAPE TOWN – KAMPALA

58 DAYS

Tour Departure – 08:00

Pre-departure Meeting – 18:00 day prior to day 1

HIGHLIGHTS

Cape Flats Township Tour
Fish River Canyon
Sossusvlei Sand Dunes
Namib Naukluft Park
Swakopmund
Cape Cross Seal Colony
Spitzkoppe
Etosha National Park
Windhoek
Kalahari Bushman Walk
Okavango Delta
Chobe National Park
Samburu National Park
Lakes Nakuru, Baringo and Bogoria
Mountain Gorilla Trek

Livingstone – Victoria Falls
Lusaka
Lake Malawi
Dar es Salaam
Zanzibar
Serengeti National Park
Olduvai Gorge
Ngorongoro Conservation Area
Meserani Snake Park
Masai Village Walk
Great Rift Valley
Nairobi
Kampala
Bwindi Impenetrable NP



From Table Mountain, Mt Kilimanjaro and Gorilla trekking, from giant sand dunes in ancient deserts to sun-kissed beaches on tropical Zanzibar, from thundering Victoria Falls to the serenity of the Chobe River, from the majesty Masai Mara, Ngorongoro crater to the vast Serengeti plains – this comprehensive tour will leave you with unforgettable memories.

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: 58 Days

Countries visited: South Africa, Namibia, Botswana, Zambia, Malawi, Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda

DAY 1 - 2

Cape Town – Western Cape - Gariiep River

Our overland safari begins in cosmopolitan Cape Town, overlooked by Table Mountain and bordered by the Atlantic Ocean, one of the world's most picturesque cities. Before we leave the city we take a tour of the Cape Flats – Cape Town's famous townships, visiting some of the local people and community projects in the area. The townships illustrate both South Africa's tumultuous history and its hope for the future and make a fascinating visit.

From here we head north through South Africa's Western Cape and through the fruit growing regions to our first nights stop near the small town of Citrusdal where we familiarise ourselves with our new home. Continuing North the landscape gradually turns drier and rockier as we head north towards the Namibian border. We set up our camp tonight at Gariiep (Orange) River before sunset.

DAY 3 - 5

Fish River Canyon – Namib Naukluft Park

We enter Namibia and arrive at the awesome Fish River Canyon. One of the natural wonders of Africa, some 500m deep and over 160km long, this is the second largest canyon in the world (after the Grand Canyon, USA). Again, there are plenty of opportunities for keen photographers as we spend time around this area and visit the canyon's infamous sharp river bend known as 'Hell's Corner.' After a night near the canyon we continue north until we reach the Namib Naukluft Park, containing the world's oldest desert and the highest sand dunes. Some of Sossusvlei's dunes are over 300m high and a popular activity here is to trek to the top of one of them in time to watch the sun rise over the open desert. A spectacular sight but be warned, it's an energy sapping climb to the top! Another well worthwhile option is to continue deeper into the park for a nature walk across the salt pans and valley floor, amidst the dunes – a real glimpse of Namibia's unspoilt natural environment. Bring your camera - the shifting colours of the desert as the sun climbs throughout the mid/late morning offer some brilliant photographic opportunities.

DAY 6 - 7

Swakopmund

Continuing on, we drive out of the desert and hit the Atlantic coast at Swakopmund, a small town redolent of Namibia's colonial past but with modern adventure oriented attractions for the visitor. Swakopmund is Namibia's main seaside resort, sandwiched neatly between the desert and the ocean, and is a delightful coastal oasis. Try some adventure desert based activities if you wish –quad biking, sand boarding, skydiving (weather permitting) – or else simply walk along the promenade admiring the ocean and indulge in the town's café culture.

DAY 8

Spitzkoppe

We leave Swakopmund and continue north to the beautiful Damaraland region and stop at Spitzkoppe to admire ancient bushman paintings still visible on the peculiar rock formations.

DAY 9 – 11

Etosha National Park - Windhoek

We continue north to Etosha National Park, a vast reserve of over 20,000 sq km surrounding a central salt depression or 'pan.' The pan is seasonally full of water but specially managed waterholes sustain some 114 mammal and 340 bird species. We spend two nights here, usually making camp near a floodlit waterhole. Observers frequently see a range of night visitors including elephant, giraffe, zebra, even lion and hyena, making it one of the most memorable wildlife encounters in Namibia. After two nights we leave Etosha and turn south to the Windhoek, the capital, a city steeped in German architecture and atmosphere. Take the opportunity to enjoy a night out at one of the local taverns!

DAY 12 – 17

Ghanzi – Okavango Delta – Chobe National Park

Leaving Windhoek we travel west into the Kalahari region and cross into Botswana. Our first stop is at the town of Ghanzi. Here, in this midst of (seemingly) barren terrain we meet the Bushman and have a guided bush walk for a glimpse of this ancient people's way of life. We stay the night nearby before continuing north to Maun for our next national park - the Okavango Delta. The Okavango is a natural wetland spreading over some 1,600,000ha of

northern Botswana. The Okavango River rises in Angola (farther to the north) and flows south dividing repeatedly after crossing into Botswana to form an intricate floodplain of channels and which spreads out into a broad flat inland delta – the only one of its kind. Here we explore amongst the giant lily pads, tall grasses and labyrinthine channels in search of hippo, crocodile and a variety of birds. We travel on foot and by mokoro (dugout canoe) and camp for a night on one of the river islands. The Okavango is a very unspoilt area and camping out amidst the bush and the rivers listening to sounds of the African night is an unforgettable experience!

After our return to Maun we make our way to the northern corner of Botswana to Chobe National Park, home to elephant, lion, buffalo, hippo and abundant birdlife, including the famous African fish eagle. Rising early we take a game drive, we rest during in the heat of the day and then in the late afternoon, we take a cruise on the Chobe River – a great opportunity to see hippo and perhaps elephant or buffalo coming to the river to bathe and drink.

DAY 18 – 19

Livingstone – Victoria Falls

Moving on from Chobe we take the ferry across the Zambezi River to Zambia and drive the short distance to the small town of Livingstone. We set up camp at the Waterfront campsite on the banks of the Zambezi, just a few kilometres from the Victoria Falls. The campsite reception will 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), allowing you to plan your time accordingly. But whatever you do, don't forget a visit to the Victoria Falls themselves. At various times of year the spray from the Falls can be seen from up to 20 or 30 kilometres away, hence the local name 'Mosi au Tunya' – the '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 good selection of reasonably priced meals and snacks throughout the day (allow US\$20 -\$30 per day for meals). Relax and enjoy these few days at your own leisure. Alternatively, take a taxi into Livingstone to try local fare.

DAY 22 - 28

Kafue River - 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 29 – 34

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. 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 35 - 37

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 38 – 40

Serengeti National Park – Olduvai Gorge – Ngorongoro Crater

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.

DAY 41-42

Nairobi

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.

DAY 43 - 44

Samburu Game Reserve

B (day 2) Lx2 Dx2

Camping (basic standard)

We leave Nairobi and journey north, passing the iconic snow-capped Mt Kenya and wheat and dairy farmlands before the landscape begins to change and we enter the semi-arid Northern Frontier District. Descending off Kenya's central highlands we pass through Isiolo eventually reaching the Samburu National Reserve.

Our campsite is set up near the Ewaso Nyiro river (sometimes written as Uaso Ngiri, 'dark waters'), a simple camp setting with basic facilities. Depending on road conditions we arrive in the early afternoon, perhaps in time for a siesta during the heat of the day. Later, we will take our first game drive in this (normally) arid but beautiful national reserve. Catching sight of your first lion – or elephant - is an exciting experience but Samburu also 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 abundant 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.

We spend the following day in the Reserve, usually dividing the day into morning and afternoon gamedrives with a rest during the heat of the middle day.

DAY 45

Great Rift Valley, Lake Baringo

L D

Tourist class hotel/camp

This morning we return south, passing back through Isiolo and around the 'shoulder' of Mt Kenya, 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 afternoon here and the option of hiring a boat for a cruise on the lake (see below for costs) to view some of the wildlife. Alternatively enjoy a guided nature walk around the lake shore. The evening is spent at our tourist class hotel for dinner and overnight.

DAY 46

Lake Bogoria and Lake Nakuru National Park

B L D

Permanent tent with bed

We leave Lake Baringo and drive back down the Rift Valley to visit the Lake Bogoria. This shallow alkali lake is 'taster' for our visit to Nakuru later in the day. Flamingo and cormorants reside here – and if time allows we see some hot springs (sorry, no swimming). Further down the Rift Valley we come to one of the jewels in Kenya's crown - Lake Nakuru National Park.

Dominated by its central alkaline lake the park is home to abundant birdlife, in particular flamingos which feed on the blue-green algae that live in the strongly alkali waters. At times these birds gather in such numbers as to form a pink 'fringe' to the lake shore. Our game driving encircles the lake giving ample opportunity to view the wildlife. Birds you may see include flamingos, pelicans, storks, ibis, kingfishers, jacanas, rollers, and the glossy starling. Larger game present in the park include rhino, buffalo, zebra, impala, colobus monkey, and the rare Rothschild giraffe. More difficult to see but present nevertheless are the more elusive leopard (normally nocturnal) and lion.

We leave the park and make our way to the nearby Nakuru for our tourist class hotel accommodation / (alternatively we travel the short distance to Lake Elementeita to our camp for dinner and overnight.)

DAYS 47/48

Masai Mara National Reserve

Bx2 Lx2 Dx2

Permanent Tent with bed

We rise early to depart for the Masai Mara. This is a long (ish) drive crossing the valley and passing through the Masai town of Narok and the remote and windy Loita Hills to Kenya's south-western area. As we approach the Reserve we may see wildlife from the main road even though we are still well outside the park boundaries. Eventually we arrive at camp a few hundred metres outside the park boundary. There is time to enjoy lunch and perhaps a short siesta before we have our first game drive.

We spend the next three 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 most wildlife is less active). The landscape in the Reserve accords with many people's idea of 'classic' Africa: rolling grasslands, open vistas, distant horizons, and herds of zebra, antelope, giraffe and many other large mammals. The 'Big Five' (elephant, rhino, buffalo, lion and leopard) are found here and we would hope to see at least some of these. If you are travelling between June and October you may see one of nature's most inspiring spectacles: the annual migration of thousands of grazing animals (mainly wildebeest and zebra) as they move from the dry southern Serengeti in the south north in search of the fresher greener grasses of the 'Mara'. The number and concentration of grazing animals attracts predators (lion, leopard amongst others) hoping for some 'easy pickings', and following them, nature's 'scavengers' (hyena, vultures). This is an inspiring sight the precise time varies slightly from year to year and such is the wealth of the wildlife, the 'Mara' is worth visiting at any time of year, and the two days we have here provides a worthwhile insight into this marvellous Reserve.

The Masai Mara area is the traditional homeland for the local Maasai people. In colonial times the Maasai were a warlike tribe, and in many ways they still resist the influx of western culture, their distinctive dress and way of life setting them apart from many other Kenyan peoples. In recent years however the Maasai have become reconciled to the growth of tourism and indeed learned to benefit from it, having control over the administration of the Masai Mara Reserve. Time permitting it may also be possible to arrange a (optional) visit to one of the local manyattas (villages) to gain an insight into their traditional way of life.

DAY 49

Nairobi

B

We leave the Mara this morning and head back past the Loita Hills and 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!). Our normal time of return to Nairobi is early/mid afternoon.

DAY 50-51

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 overnighing continue on the main route west to Eldoret, and the Uganda frontier.

DAY 52

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 53-54

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 game drive 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 55-58

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 58.

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 1-41 and 50-58

(b) The 7 day Kenyan section – days 43-50 – is operated by Acacia Small Groups. Travel is in a smaller group and in smaller - 6-8 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.

NB: The meals on Zanzibar are **not included** in the tour price or Local Payment [please allow USD 20-30/day].

NB² Accommodation and meals in Nairobi on nights 41 and 42 are **not included** in the tour price or Local Payment. Please put aside between US\$40-70 per night for meals and accommodation.

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

(a) For days 1-41 and 50-58 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 and Masai Mara excursion transport is by 4WD land-rover and Minibus (or similar).

(b) For days 43 – 50: the tour takes place in a safari minibus (normally 8-10 seater) smaller than the overland truck but more suited to Kenyan conditions and game parks.

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) x49, Lunch (L) x43, Dinner (D) x42

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. Cape Town and Nairobi 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 Cape Town. **The pre-departure meeting is held at 18:00 on the evening prior to departure. The tour departs at 08:00 on day 1 and ends in Nairobi on day 41.**

Meeting point in **Cape Town:**

Ashanti Lodge Green Point

Address:

23 Antrim Rd
Three Anchor Bay,
Green Point
Cape Town, 8005,
Tel +27 (0)21 433 1619
Email: info@ashanti.co.za

Pre-dep. meeting:

18:00 prior to departure day

Tour start time:

08:00 on day 1

Tour end point in Kampala:

Red Chilli Hideaway

Address:

**Plot 17, Gangaram Road
Mbuya
Kampala**

Contact details:

Tel. +256 (0)414 223 903 or +256 772 509 150

Tour end time:

Late afternoon/ early evening of day 58

PRE TOUR ACCOMMODATION

This tour departs Cape Town early 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.

Nationality	UK	AUS	NZ	USA	CAN	BEL	IRE	NED	DEN	ITA	GER	AUT	SWE	FIN	NOR	MEX	KOR
S. Africa	No	Yes	No														
Namibia	No	Yes	Yes														
Botswana	No	Yes															
Zambia	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes									
Malawi	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes										
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 can then be transferred 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: Ugandan Schillings, Kenyan Shilling; Tanzania (including Zanzibar): Tanzania Shilling; Malawi Kwacha; Zambia Kwacha; Botswana Pula, Namibian Dollar, South African Rand.
- **ATM machines** are found in Kampala, Nairobi, Arusha, Dar es Salaam, Zanzibar, Livingstone, and in southern 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 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 CAPE TOWN TO KAMPALA 58 DAY tour:

The Basic Local Payment is: USD 1985 per person

The Inclusive Local Payment is: USD 710 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			
		White Water Rafting/ Riverboarding	\$145/ \$175
Camel Ride	\$30	Flight over the Falls	\$130 -
Zanzibar (Tanzania)			
Scuba Diving (Mnemba island)	\$150	Zambezi Sunset Cruise	\$60
Snorkelling Day Trip	\$30-45	Lion Encounter	\$130
Accommodation & Food (per day)	\$20-30	Botswana	
Spice Tour	\$25	Okavango scenic flight per 5-seater plane	\$400
Dolphin excursion	\$35-\$40	Kalahari desert swim excursion	50BP
Malawi			
Snorkelling	\$20	Quad Biking	N\$500
		Sand Boarding	N\$250- N\$350
		Deep Sea Fishing	N\$850
		Scenic flights	N\$2695
Livingstone			
Vic Falls bungi (single/tandem)	\$120	Tandem skydive	N\$1900
Game walk	\$75	Dolphin Cruise	N\$480
Croc farm tour	\$30	Kayaking	N\$600
Gorge Swing	\$60	Quad Biking	N\$500
		South Africa	
		Orange River Canoeing	R200

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

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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