

32 Day Northern Safari 2010 CAM0920

Route:	Johannesburg to Nairobi
Local payment:	USD 595 per person

This trip departs from Johannesburg early on Wednesday morning. Should you wish to explore Johannesburg, an earlier arrival should be planned and accommodation booked through us.

Pre Departure Meeting: Held at the Departure Point at 17h00 the day before your departure.

Departure Point: Backpacker's Ritz - 1A North Road, Dunkeld West, Johannesburg

Check-In Time: 07h00

Departure Time: 07h30

Please Note:

This itinerary should be used as a guide only and may vary from day to day depending on road & weather conditions, political situations and group decisions.

All prices & Local Payments are subject to change with prior notice. Due to Tourism Laws in some of the countries we visit, there may be a truck and crew change during the trip.

DAY 1: Johannesburg to Hazyview (L / D)

Leaving Johannesburg we head towards the Lowveld and the famous Kruger National Park. On our way we pass through the southern section of the picturesque Panorama Route – famous for its breathtaking vistas. Our camp for the next two nights is just 8 km from the Kruger's Numbi Gate. We spend a relaxing evening around the camp fire before our game drive tomorrow.

DAY 2: Hazyview (B / L / D)

Today we explore the amazing Kruger National Park. Covering 21 497 km² - 60 km wide and over 350 km long, this conservation area has more than 146 mammals, 500 bird, 114 reptile, 33 amphibian & 49 fish species. 23 000 different types of plants have been recorded. We spend the day driving around the park looking for a few of these. There is the option of doing a night drive looking for a few of the nocturnal inhabitants.

DAY 3: Hazyview to Blydepoort (Aventura) (B / L / D)

After a quick replenishing of our stocks we leave the Lowveld and head up to the beautiful Panorama Route. It is from this gateway in Mpumalanga that we explore some of the best scenery in South Africa, including the ever striking Blyde River Canyon and God's Window. The many viewpoints of the Canyon, afford us excellent photo opportunities. We set up our tents on the lush green grass of our camp before enjoying a dip in the lovely swimming pool.

DAY 4: Blydepoort to Polokwane (B / L / D)

Today we head further west to Polokwane. This small city was founded by Voortrekkers in the 1840's and today it is home to South Africa's African National Congress – the current ruling political party. This evening we unwind at our campsite on the outskirts of Polokwane.

DAY 5: Polokwane to Khama Sanctuary (Botswana) (B / L / D)

We depart from South Africa and head across the border into Botswana where after border formalities; we head to the Khama Rhino Sanctuary. The Khama Rhino Sanctuary Trust is a community based wildlife project, established in 1992 to assist in saving the vanishing rhino, restore an area formerly teeming with wildlife to its previous natural state and provide economic benefits to the local Batswana community through tourism and the sustainable use of natural resources. This afternoon we explore the sanctuary on foot to catch a glimpse of these magnificent creatures.

DAY 6: Khama Sanctuary to Nata (B / L / D)

This morning we head further north through bustling Francistown on our way to Nata. Nata is situated near to the Nxai! & Makgadikgadi Salt Pans and the surrounding area has abundant varieties of local bird life. Enjoy an afternoon of exploration as we sight these beautiful winged creatures.

DAY 7: Gweta (B / L / D)

A short distance from Nata is the well known camp Planet Baobab. This camp has featured on many documentaries and offers various walks and activities in the surrounding Kalahari area. This afternoon is at leisure – enjoy a walk in the surrounding bushveld, or simply relax at their quirky bar to appreciate its funky decor.

DAYS 8 & 9: Kasane (B / L / D)

After a leisurely breakfast, we bid farewell to the Kalahari region and head up to the river side town of Kasane. Kasane lies between the Chobe National Park and the Chobe River close to the borders of Zambia and Zimbabwe. On day 9 we have the option to do a game drive in the Chobe National Park and

in the afternoon, we explore the National Park on a boat cruise. This is an ideal way to spot the resident wildlife as they come to the river to quench their thirst.

DAY 10: Victoria Falls (Zimbabwe) (B / L)

This morning we head to the border head to Victoria Falls. Here in Africa's adventure capital, we set up camp in the town's centrally located campsite. Victoria Falls or Mosi-oa-Tunya (the Smoke that Thunders) is one of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World and it's not difficult to see why. At 1700 m wide and around 100 m high, this is the world's largest sheet of falling water and a memorable sight on any African Safari! The Falls can be viewed from the Victoria Falls National Park, Zimbabwe and the Mosi-oa-Tunya National Park, Zambia. Each offer fantastic photo opportunities. The afternoon is spent relaxing at the campsite's swimming pool or exploring the many sights and delights of this town!

DAYS 11 & 12: Victoria Falls

The next 2 days are spent relaxing or participating in a myriad of Optional Excursions. Victoria Falls or Mosi-oa-Tunya (the Smoke that Thunders) is one of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World and it's not difficult to see why. At 1700 m wide and around 100 m high, this is the world's largest sheet of falling water and a memorable sight on any African Safari! The Falls can be viewed from the Victoria Falls National Park, Zimbabwe and the Mosi-oa-Tunya National Park, Zambia. Each offer fantastic photo opportunities. All year round, flights can be taken in fixed wing planes, micro lights or helicopters. Back on the ground, the falls can be seen from the Victoria Falls National Park with its many viewing points or from the Zambian side. All offer fantastic photographic opportunities.

White water rafting in the Batoka Gorge is considered to be world class. Besides the excitement of the grade 5 rapids, there are the "floats", where there is time to admire the scenic cliffs and occasional wildlife on the riverbanks.

OPTIONAL Excursions include trips into the Zambezi or Hwange National Parks, elephant back safaris, horse back safaris, a visit to the crocodile ranch, boat cruises and golf at The Elephant Hills Resort. Adrenalin junkies can bungee from the Victoria Falls Bridge connecting Zimbabwe and Zambia or abseil down the Batoka Gorge - neither activity is for the faint hearted! All year round, flights in fixed wing, micro light and ultra light aircraft or helicopters provide an aerial perspective over this magnificent World Heritage Site. White water rafting on the Zambezi is world class. Beside the excitement of the Grade 5 rapids, there are the "floats," where there is time to admire the scenic cliffs and the occasional wildlife on the riverbanks.

DAY 13: Victoria Falls to Livingstone (Zambia) (B / L / D)

We leave Zimbabwe and cross the Victoria Falls Bridge and the Zambezi River, entering into Zambia at the town of Livingstone. We have the opportunity to view The Falls from the Mosi-oa-Tunya National Park, Zambia. Another fantastic photo opportunity. The day affords us the opportunity to participate in the activities available in Zambia we weren't able to do on the Zimbabwean side of the Falls. Tonight we have the option of enjoying a sunset dinner cruise on the mighty Zambezi.

DAY 14: Livingstone to Lusaka (B / L / D)

An early morning start sees us head north through southern Zambia to our campsite on the outskirts of Zambia's capital city, Lusaka. The campsite is home to some local wildlife including the largest antelope – Eland.

DAY 15: Lusaka to Chipata (B / L / D)

From Lusaka we head north east to a beautiful little campsite just 10 km before the Zambia/Malawi border. Here we spend the night before heading into Malawi.

DAYS 16 to 20: Chipata to Lake Malawi Beaches (Malawi) (B / L / D)

Leaving Zambia we cross into Malawi, the 'Warm Heart of Africa'. We stop off in the capital, Lilongwe, a small city distinctively divided into the old town and the new administrative centre. Malawi is a landlocked country with 20% of its total area made up of beautiful Lake Malawi. We travel the full length of the western side of the lake, stopping off at various bays and inlets over the next 5 days.

Spend the days learning the game of bao from the locals, scour the markets for a bargain or simply relax on the pristine beaches. Malawi's temperate climate allows for swimming in the clear blue fresh-water lake all year round. Explore the beautiful shore where you'll happen upon the local fishermen sorting their catch. Traditional fishing techniques are still practiced and to appreciate their boating skills, try to paddle a dug out canoe yourself! The various beachside campsites along Lake Malawi's shores offer many optional Excursions including a variety of water sports, horse back rides and a visit to the local village and school.

DAY 21: Lake Malawi to Iringa (Tanzania) (B / L / D)

After a relaxing 5 days, we leave Malawi, entering Tanzania through the border post at Songwe. Taking in the beauty of the Tukuyu tea and banana plantations, we head towards Iringa where we spend the night in the beautiful rustic 'Farmhouse' campsite famous for its Amarula Hot Chocolates and its steamy showers!

DAY 22: Iringa to Dar es Salaam (B / L / D)

The next morning we make our way to Dar es Salaam. We pass through the Mikumi National Park where it is possible to view a range of wildlife from the roadside, totally impervious to the passing traffic. On arrival in Dar es Salaam, we make our way to our lovely seaside campsite and prepare for our departure to Zanzibar the next morning.

DAY 23: Dar es Salaam to Zanzibar (B)

A ferry from Dar es Salaam takes us to the "Spice Island," where we have the option to spend the next 3 nights. Zanzibar is steeped in history and was one of the major starting points for most East African explorers in their quest for new lands. New passengers may join us to replace those that'll leave us at the end of our excursion to Zanzibar.

PLEASE NOTE: Accommodation and Meals are for your own account whilst on Zanzibar, as it is our experience that passengers prefer to explore the island on their own. The Trip Leader joins you and can arrange your accommodation, while meals can be enjoyed from a wide selection of restaurants.

*For those not opting to visit the island of Zanzibar, the next 3 days are spent at leisure at the beach campsite in Dar es Salaam.

DAYS 24 & 25: Zanzibar

History aside, Zanzibar offers a wealth of experiences for the visitor. Today the quiet streets of the old Stone Town still retain their Arabic influence, from the Medina-like shops to the palaces of the Sultans, who founded their vast empires on the spoils of the slave and ivory trade. The island is famous for its spices and an excursion around a spice plantation is always a fascinating experience. Other options include a trip to the beautiful beaches and giant tortoises of Prison Island, a full day scuba dive in Nungwe or a fishing trip in a traditional dhow. Mopeds are available for hire if you'd like to explore the more remote areas of the island. Zanzibar is a seafood lover's paradise. Numerous restaurants offer a great variety of the freshest catch from the ocean - crayfish being a popular speciality. Alternatively, mingle with the locals for dinner at the Forodhani Gardens seafront market, where delicious, inexpensive seafood is on offer.

DAY 26: Zanzibar to Dar es Salaam (D)

Leaving Zanzibar, we return to the mainland and another night in Dar es Salaam.

DAY 27: Dar es Salaam to Arusha (B / L / D)

From Dar es Salaam we travel through vast sisal plantations to Arusha. On the way, we pass The Pare and Usambara Mountain ranges before driving through the town of Moshi. Moshi is the base for Mount Kilimanjaro climbing expeditions and weather permitting; we may even catch a glimpse of this magical mountain's snowy summit - a photo opportunity not to be missed! Tonight we stay in a lovely campsite in Meserani on the outskirts of Arusha, before heading out on our Optional Excursions to the Serengeti and Ngorongoro Crater.

DAYS 28 - 30: Arusha / Optional Ngorongoro Crater/Serengeti Excursion

Arusha is a pleasant town situated at the base of Mount Meru and is the starting point for the optional excursions to Ngorongoro Crater and Serengeti. We conduct these excursions in locally operated 4WD vehicles, which are adapted for safari use.

For those not opting to visit the Ngorongoro Crater or Serengeti National Park, the next 2 days are spent at leisure enjoying the Meserani reptile park, Masai Cultural Museum and the surrounding villages and craft markets. Alternatively the town of Arusha is close by to explore. (B,L,D)

The Optional Ngorongoro/Serengeti excursion takes us via the Masai town of Mtu Wa Mbu (Mosquito River) that lies adjacent to the Lake Manyara National Park and up the Rift Valley Escarpment to the higher lying village of Karatu. Karatu offers magnificent views over the surrounding hills and has many well established wheat farms that add to the picturesque panoramas. We spend the evening at a pleasant campsite in Karatu. The following morning we depart early for the Ngorongoro Conservation area and head into the wildlife rich Ngorongoro Crater. This World Heritage Site boasts some of the best game viewing in Africa – including the elusive Black Rhino.

After our game drive in the Crater, we head down the Crater rim and past the 'Cradle of Mankind' on our way to the Serengeti National Park. We cross the vast plains as we game drive through the southern and central areas in the park. Tonight we camp in the bushveld surrounded by the sounds of the African wilderness. In the morning, we head off for another game drive and explore the landscape in search of the resident game. With some luck, we may see some of Africa's 'Big 5'!

After our morning drive, we head back across the plains and the lush Crater rim to our truck at Arusha, where we spend the evening musing over our thrilling wildlife experience.

DAY 31: Arusha to Namanga (Kenya) (B / L / D)

After a morning spent exploring Arusha's city centre and vibrant craft markets, we head to lunch just outside of town. After lunch, we travel 120 km to the Tanzania / Kenya border. Once the border formalities are complete, we camp at Namanga just over the Kenyan border.



DAY 32: Namanga to Nairobi (B)

This morning we travel 180 km north to the capital city, Nairobi. On arrival, we head to the Hotel Boulevard, where we exchange addresses and part ways, having just experienced a trip of a lifetime!

OPTIONAL EXCURSIONS

Below is a selection of Optional Excursions available on this trip. For a more comprehensive list, please contact us.

- Please Note
- these prices are approximate and are subject to change
 - where activities occur away from your base, there may be an additional transfer cost.

South Africa, Kruger National Park - Night Drive	US\$ 45
Zimbabwe, Gweru - Walk with Lions	US\$ 45
Zimbabwe, Victoria Falls - White Water Rafting on the Zambezi	US\$ 95
Zimbabwe, Victoria Falls - Bungee Jump	US\$ 90
Zambia, Livingstone - Sunset Dinner Cruise	US\$ 50
Malawi, Lake Malawi - Water Skiing	US\$ 15
Malawi, Lake Malawi - Village Walk & Meal	US\$ 10
Tanzania, Zanzibar - Accommodation p/p/p/n	From US\$ 30
Tanzania, Zanzibar - Stone Town - Spice Tour	US\$ 30
Tanzania, Arusha - 3 Day / 2 Night Serengeti/Ngorongoro Crater Excursion *	US\$ 410

*Although traveller's cheques are accepted for the Serengeti/Ngorongoro Excursions, they are subject to a surcharge of at least 5%.

**Please note that all accommodation & activities in Victoria Falls must be paid for in US\$ cash (GBP & ZAR also accepted at a lower rate).

FREE TRIP



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When you book this trip, you are entitled to receive a FREE 3 Day Masai Mara Safari the Sunday after your trip ends. The Local Payment is still applicable for the trip. This fantastic offer must be taken up at the same time you book this trip. Ask us for more details. Conditions apply.



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