

35 Day East African and Gorilla – Livingstone to Nairobi

Day 1 Lusaka

Leaving behind the natural wonder of Victoria Falls we begin our expedition. After Livingstone we journey towards the bustling Zambian capital of Lusaka. You will notice the vegetation becoming sub-tropical and the roads a little rougher.

Meals: Lunch, Dinner
Overnight: Pioneers Camp: www.pioneercampzambia.com

Day 2 Chipata

Today is a long drive through lush country, crossing rivers en-route to Chipata, the gateway to the South Luangwa NP. Zambia is truly African and an adjustment from the more Western ways of Southern Africa.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Overnight: MamaRulas: www.mamarulas.com

Day 3 South Luangwa National Park

Early in the morning we drive from Chipata to the border of the South Luangwa National Park where we spend the next two nights right on the banks of the Luangwa River. You can often see hippos and other animals from the camp bar. This afternoon we enjoy a sunset game drive in the South Luangwa NP.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Overnight: Wildlife Camp: www.wildlifecamp-zambia.com

Day 4 South Luangwa National Park

In the morning you have the opportunity to take another game drive. The park is known for its high concentration of leopards and hippos. After lunch we visit the community run tribal textile project and a local village.

Optional Activities: Morning Game Drive and Game Walk.
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Overnight: Wildlife Camp: www.wildlifecamp-zambia.com

Day 5 Lilongwe

Today we visit the Lilongwe Wildlife Centre, Malawi's only sanctuary for rescued, orphaned and injured wild animals. The Centre is set in 180 hectares of beautiful woodland, Lilongwe's only protected wilderness.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Overnight: Barefoot Lodge: www.barefoot-safaris.com/index_files/BarefootLodge.htm



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Day 6/7 Kande Beach

This morning we have the opportunity to participate in a 2 hour city tour, before we take a scenic drive to Kande beach. We will spend the next 2 days enjoying the many optional activities available, such as horse riding and different water sports. We will go on a guided village walk in order to meet the local people and learn more about Malawian life.

Optional Activities: *2 hour morning city tour in Lilongwe, Water Sports, Horse Riding, Craft Shopping*
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Overnight: Kande Beach: www.kandebeach.com

Day 8 Lake Malawi - Chitimba

We travel further north and spend our last day in Malawi at Chitimba beach. For those who have had enough of the beach, there is a short hike to the Manchawe Falls.

Optional Activities: *Water sports etc.*
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Overnight: Chitimba: www.chitimba.com

Day 9 Tanzania –Iringa

Today we leave Malawi and enter Tanzania. We ascend out of the Great Rift Valley through some spectacular mountain passes, passing vast tea plantations in the highlands before arriving at our camp outside Iringa. This evening our dinner is in a local Masai Hut where we enjoy a traditional Tanzanian evening.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Overnight: Kisolanza Farm: www.kisolanza.com

Day 10 Mikumi

We leave Iringa today and head north to the Mikumi National Park. Mikumi is home to lion, zebra, wildebeest, impala, buffalo and elephant and today we have the opportunity to enjoy an optional afternoon game drive through the park.

Optional Activities: *Afternoon game drive in Mikumi NP.*
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Overnight: Tan-Swiss Lodge: www.tan-swiss.com/

Day 11 Dar es Salaam

Our journey today brings us out of the cool highland region to the humid Indian ocean coastal city of Dar es Salaam. Meaning 'house of peace' in Arabic, Dar es Salaam is the economic and trade capital of Tanzania, but inland Dodoma remains the official capital city.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Overnight: Kipepeo Camp: www.kipepeocamp.com



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Day 12/13/14

Zanzibar

A local ferry will take us from Dar es Salaam (where we leave the truck) to Stone Town, the capital of Zanzibar. We spend the first night exploring the historical and unique architecture. There are also spice and seafood markets to be explored. The following day we take a transfer to the northern part of the island where we will spend our time relaxing on the beach.

Optional Activities: Lunch & Dinner, Swimming with Dolphins, Scuba Diving, Snorkelling etc.

Meals: Breakfast x 3

Overnight: Stone Town - Shangani Hotel x1: www.shanganihotel.com

Nungwi Beach – Nungwi Inn x2: www.nungwiinnhotel.co.tz

Day 15

Lushoto

Today we leave Zanzibar and catch a ferry back to Dar es Salaam and return to our truck. We continue on to Lushoto, the major town and district centre, albeit small, in the Usambara Mountains, halfway between the coast and the parks. The popular pot plant Saintpaulia has its only wild occurrences in Tanzania, and particularly in the Usambara Mts

Here you will have the chance to hike in the surrounding area, or just relax.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Overnight: The Lawns Hotel: www.lawnshotel.com

Day 16

Karatu

Today we take a scenic drive via Arusha to the picturesque town of Karatu. The area's cool climate, verdant hills, and pleasing views made it popular with settlers and farmers. Vast and extensive fields cover the slopes of the volcano and the lands around Karatu town. Karatu is also a stone's throw away from the world famous Serengeti & Ngorongoro Conservation Area.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Overnight: Kudu Camp: www.kuducamp.com/

Day 17/18/19

Serengeti and Ngorongoro Excursion

These 4 days are set aside for the optional 3-night excursion into the Serengeti National Park and Ngorongoro Crater. This area has one of the most densely inhabited large animal populations in Africa. The excursion is in open topped 4x4 safari vehicles in order to tackle the challenging side roads in the parks. For those not going to the parks, take this chance to absorb some of the fascinating local culture.

Optional Activities: Various Serengeti & Ngorongoro Excursion packages, Lake Manyara game drives, day hiking & village tours, volunteer at educational project and many more various day trips.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Overnight: Seronera and Simba Campsites: www.tanzaniaparks.com/serengeti.html



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Day 20 Arusha

Today the group meets up again and we have the chance to exchange stories of the various adventures that we participated in over the past few days. In the afternoon we visit the local Masai Mara Museum and Snake Park in Arusha.

Optional Activities: *Camel ride to local Masaai village*

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Overnight: Meserani Oasis or Snake Park Camp: www.meseranisnakepark.com

Day 21 Kenya – Nairobi

After crossing the border into Kenya we continue to travel towards Nairobi. We can all go out for a group meal at one of Nairobi's excellent restaurants.

Optional Activities: *Dinner out*

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Overnight: Meridian Court Hotel: www.meridianhotelkenya.com

Day 22 Masai Mara National Reserve

We leave the capital and travel to the Masai Mara National Reserve. Today the tour enters this huge area of spectacular game viewing to photograph some of Africa's most abundant wildlife. Famous for the annual migration of around 1.5 million wildebeest, the Masai Mara is also home to many other animals, including lions. Cultural interaction with Kenya's native Masaai people completes our experience.

Meals: Lunch, Dinner

Overnight: Masai Mara Camp – (no website available)

Day 23 Masai Mara to Lake Naivasha

We travel north to Lake Naivasha. One of the more popular optional activities in Hell's Gate NP, is to go game viewing on a bicycle.

Optional Activities: *Cycle hire in Hell's Gate NP, High Tea at Elsamere.*

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Overnight: Fish Eagle Camp: www.fisheagleinn.com

Day 24 Nakuru National Park

We travel towards Lake Nakuru NP, a great place to spot flamingos. White Rhino also inhabit the transitional savannah area surrounding the lake

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Overnight: Lion Hill Camp - (no website available)



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Day 25 Uganda - Kampala

Leaving Lake Nakuru we drive to the Uganda border, and then stop for a photo at the equator. Later we arrive in Uganda's capital and largest city, Kampala.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Overnight: Red Chilli Hideaway: www.redchillihideaway.com

Day 26 Kampala / Ngamba Chimpanzee Sanctuary

Although officially this day is set aside for everyone to explore Kampala, most people take an optional day trip to the Chimpanzee Sanctuary of Ngamba Island. This non-profit eco-friendly project was set up in 1998 to care for orphaned chimpanzees.

Optional Activities: Ngamba Chimpanzee Excursion, Kampala Markets, Dinner Out.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Overnight: Red Chilli Hideaway: www.redchillihideaway.com

Day 27 Lake Bunyonyi

Lake Bunyonyi is a small but attractive lake with steep sides and abundant birdlife. Ringed by mountains, the lake is best known for its dense Otter population and stunning scenery. We make use of this beautiful spot to relax the night before the final drive to the gorillas.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Overnight: Lake Bunyonyi Campsite: www.bunyonyioverland.com

Day 28/29/30 Gorillas

The mountain gorilla is extremely endangered and while exact numbers vary it is widely assumed that there are only around 650 left. Visiting the gorillas is a great way to support their future on earth as the money spent on permits is used for their protection. An extremely important part of the future conservation of the remaining gorillas rests in the community development work – as local communities change their attitudes towards wildlife and start to protect rather than poach, the future of the mountain gorilla is assured.

As permits granting permission to visit the gorillas are extremely limited we require flexibility in both the tour itinerary and where we actually visit them. The home of the mountain gorillas is completely at odds with man-made borders and so their range encompasses Uganda, Rwanda and the DRC (Democratic Republic of the Congo). Whenever possible we choose to make use of the National Park in Uganda, but this depends on the availability of permits.

Should we not obtain permits to visit the mountain gorillas in Uganda then we will inform all passengers beforehand that the tour will travel to Rwanda or DRC.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Overnight: Buhoma Community Camp: www.buhomacommunity.com

Please note: Although there are 3-days allocated to Gorilla Trekking you will only spend one-day on the trek. The other days are there to provide a large enough window in which to obtain permits and to allow the entire group to trek if there are more than 6 of you on the tour.



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Day 31 **Queen Elizabeth National Park**

Many game species are to be found in this wetland park including the (elsewhere elusive) giant forest hog, and the legendary tree-climbing lions of the Ishasha Sector.

Optional Activities: *Kasinga Channel Sunset Cruise*

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Overnight: Queen Elizabeth National Park: www.queenelizabethnationalpark.com

Day 32/33 **Jinja**

The morning is spent on further game viewing and this afternoon we travel to Jinja. Jinja is Uganda's second largest city and is famous as the point where the Nile (officially the Victoria Nile) flows out of Lake Victoria and begins the 6695 kilometre journey to Egypt and the Mediterranean.

Optional Activities: *White Water Rafting*

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Overnight: Nile River Explorers Camp: www.raftafrica.com/campsite.htm

Day 34 **Kenya - Eldoret**

Returning to Kenya we visit Eldoret, the country's 5th largest city. The Great Rift Valley is still the dominant geographical feature of this region and the altitude at Eldoret is 2100 metres above sea level.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Overnight: Naiberi River Camp: www.naiberi.com

Day 35 **Nairobi**

Returning to Nairobi, the largest city in the East Africa region, there's an optional dinner, where we can swap stories and exchange contact details.

Optional Activities: *Meal out in Nairobi*

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

NB: The itinerary is flexible and can be changed without notice in order to accommodate the best possible viewing of the Gorillas. The Permit price to visit the Gorillas can also change without notice.

