46-Day Cape to Kenya and Mara - CAM0462

Day 1 South Africa – Cederberg Mountain Region

Camp L,D

We depart Cape Town heading north into the Cederberg Mountain region. Cederberg is well known as one of the main Rooibos Tea growing areas in South Africa and is also home to beautiful wildflowers in October. On this first afternoon we spend some time learning about tour-life, the vehicle and equipment, and we set of on a guided walk through the surrounding mountain to see Bushmen paintings and learn about the local fauna and wildlife.

Day 2 Namaqualand – Gariep/Orange River

Camp B,L,D

Today we leave the Western Cape and travel north through Namaqualand, headed for the Gariep/Orange River. The group spends the night under the stars on the banks of the river around the campfire, getting to know one another. The Gariep/Orange River forms a natural border between South Africa and Namibia and is widely used for agricultural irrigation in this arid area.

Day 3 Namibia - Fish River Canyon

Camp B,L,D

You can choose between a relaxing morning on the riverbank or the half-day canoe adventure on the river. After lunch we break camp and travel north to the Fish River Canyon, the second largest in the world. The Fish River is the longest river in Namibia at 650km in length; the canyon, situated along the lower reaches of this seasonal river, is 161 km in length and runs from Seeheim to Ai-Ais. In the afternoon we take a walk along the rim of the canyon and arrive at the main viewing point for sunset. Optional Activities: Orange/Gariep River Half Day Canoe Adventure.

Day 4 Namib-Naukluft National Park

Camp B,L,D

From the Fish River Canyon we continue on into the remote Namibian hinterland. We arrive at camp in the afternoon and have time to go for a walk down into the smaller Sesriem Canyon.

Day 5 Sossusvlei Dunes Namib-Naukluft National Park

Camp B,L,D

An early start as we take advantage of the cooler temperatures of dawn and drive into the Namib-Naukluft National Park, where we will hike up Dune 45 for sun rise, and gain a different perspective of the desert. After this you have breakfast, and then set off into the desert with a local expert, for a guided tour, to learn about all kinds of life in the sands.

Day 6/7 Swakopmund

Hostel B,L,D (Dinner on day 7 only)

A dramatic drive through the arid Namib-Naukluft, crossing mountain passes and the Tropic of Capricorn sees us arrive at Walvis Bay. We stop to view the flamingos, before we head towards the seaside resort town of Swakopmund. The next day is left free for each individual to pursue their own interests including many adventure activities. Optional Activities: Quad biking, Sand boarding, Sky Diving, Scenic Flights, Fishing etc.

Day 8 Spitzkoppe

Camp B,L,D

We leave all the trappings of modern life behind us and drive inland to the mysterious Spitzkoppe, a sacred site of the San people, where we have the chance to climb the boulders, rock formations and experience a guided hike in the area to view the sacred San rock art. Tonight we camp in the wild.

Day 9 Himba Tribes

Camp B,L,D

After some early morning exploration we head inland again and drive north towards Kamanjab, which is well known for its Himba tribes. The Himba are a pastoral people and predominantly breed cattle or goats. The Himba traditionally lead a nomadic life and are easily recognizable by their unique style of dress. Encountering a totally different way of living is very mind opening and a moving experience for many people.

Day 10/11 Etosha National Park

Camp B,L,D

An early rise sees us on our way to Etosha National Park and some of the most unique game viewing experiences in Africa. We will go on various game drives, and spend our evenings visiting the abundant water holes for some excellent game photography.

Day 12 Windhoek

Hostel B,L

After an early morning game drive we set off towards Windhoek in the center of Namibia. En-route we stop at a popular craft market. Windhoek is the capital of Namibia, and is located in a basin between the Khomas Highland, Auas and Eros Mountains. Whether due to pure luck or a brilliant stroke of Germanic planning, Windhoek is situated in almost the exact centre of Namibia. In the afternoon we'll take you on a short tour of the city. Optional Activities: Dinner out.

Day 13 Botswana - Ghanzi

Camp B,L,D

An early morning as we start off east towards the Buitepos border, were we then cross over into Botswana. Once at camp we'll get to meet with a local Bushmen community and see some traditional Tribal Dancing.

Day 14/15/16 Botswana - Okavango Delta

Camp B,L,D

Another early day! Our journey takes us from Ghanzi towards Maun. We spend the night here in this gateway to the Okavango Delta preparing for our two night bush camping experience. Your guides will provide you with a briefing about the next few days' activities, the environment and the community run tourism operation. From here in the morning we start our Delta Excursion; we leave the truck behind and make our way by 4x4 to the Polers station. From here we will enter the Delta using local transport, mokoros (dugout canoes).

Day 17 Botswana - Gweta

Camp B,L,D

After our 4x4 transfer out, we leave the Delta behind us and travel east to Gweta, which is located halfway between Maun and Nata, right next to the Makgadikgadi Pans National Park. The Makgadikgadi Pans National Park area was once a super lake almost 30 meters (100 feet) deep, over an area of 80,000 sq. km (30,888 sq. miles). When the climate changed 10,000 years ago Lake Makgadikgadi was well on the way to drying up. As the water evaporated, huge glistening salt-encrusted pans were left. These pans look as flat as a billiard table and stretch as far as the eye can see.

Day 18 Botswana - Chobe National Park

Camp B,L,D

Leaving Gweta we head towards Kasane, where we camp on the banks of the Chobe River. The afternoon is spent game viewing on a boat cruise, into the renowned Chobe NP. This is an excellent opportunity to view some of Africa's spectacular wildlife. You also have the chance to experience an early morning game drive the next day.

Day 19 Zimbabwe - Victoria Falls

Hostel B,L

Arriving early in Zimbabwe, we have time to plan the next day's adventure activities before we head off to visit the spectacular Victoria Falls and experience the thundering sound of the mighty Zambezi. The popular optional sunset cruise includes dinner and drinks. Optional Activities: Chobe morning game drive, Zambezi Sunset Cruise

Day 20 Victoria Falls

Hostel B.L,D

Most people will spend the day White Water Rafting, a not-to-be-missed experience of a lifetime! Vic Falls offers many exciting alternatives. Optional Activities: White Water Rafting, Bungee Jump, Elephant Excursion, Dinner out.

Day 22 Zambia - Livingstone

Camp B,L, D

We cross over the border bridge into Zambia and spend another day enjoying the activities on offer in Livingstone.

Optional Activities: Zambezi White Water Rafting, Bungee Jumping, Elephant Back Safari, Zambezi sunset cruise.

Day 23/24 Lusaka / Chipata

Camp B,L,D

Leaving behind the excitement of Vic Falls we depart on our expedition. The journey towards the bustling Zambian capital of Lusaka takes us along an interesting route. We begin the following day with some shopping in Lusaka before heading northeast towards Chipata where we spend the night. This is an interesting area full of friendly locals.

Day 25/26 South Luangwa National Park

Camp B,L,D

Early in the morning we drive from Chipata to the South Luangwa National Park where we spend two nights on the banks of the river. The second day is put aside for included activities such as a tribal textile project tour and village visit. Park fees are included with a guided sunset game drive. On occasion, in the rainy season it is impossible or inadvisable to attempt to reach South Luangwa NP, if this happens then an alternative itinerary will be chosen. Optional Activities: Guided Game Walk in South Luangwa NP

Day 27 Malawi – Luwawa Forest

Camp B,L,D

Today we cross the Zambia-Malawi border after leaving South Luangwa National Park in the early morning. Heading north we enter the highlands of Malawi and spend the night at Luwawa Forest. There are some wonderful hikes in the area, which your guides will lead, as well as other great activities. Optional Activities: Fishing, Mountain Biking, Hiking.

Day 28/29/30/31 Central Lake Malawi and Northern Malawi

Camp B,L,D

Lake Malawi used to be called Lake Nyasa and is the southernmost of the Great Rift Valley lakes. The lake is at an altitude of around 500 metres and has a tropical climate. We will spend the next couple of carefree days relaxing on the white sandy beaches. For the more adventurous there are endless leisure and water sport activities. Alternatively, soak up the atmosphere and relax in one of the most scenic and memorable holiday destinations in Africa! The evenings are spent beside (close to) the tranquil waters. Optional Activities: Scuba diving, parasailing, windsurfing, fishing, canoeing, horse riding, craft shopping, hiking and more.

Day 32/33 Tanzania – Iringa - Dar es Salaam

Camp B,L,D

Today we make the border crossing out of Malawi. Leaving the lake behind us, we head for our first night in Tanzania. As we ascend out of the Great Rift Valley through some spectacular mountain passes, we pass the vast tea plantations in the highlands to our camp outside Iringa. The next day we transit through Mikumi National Park to the historical port city of Dar es Salaam.

Day 34/35/36 Zanzibar

Own Arrangements B (day 13 only) Zanzibar accommodation is normally B & B

On this optional activity a transfer by ferry takes us to Zanzibar where we will spend the next few days exploring this fascinating island with its renowned architecture, beautiful beaches, colourful people and history. The excursion is at your own expense and costs can be adjusted depending on your preferred level of accommodation and activities. If you prefer not to go to Zanzibar, one of the guides will stay behind with you. Optional Activities: Zanzibar Excursion: Ferry, Food, Accommodation, Spice Tours, Dolphin Tours, Scuba Diving, Snorkeling.

Day 37/38 Zanzibar/Dar es Salaam – Arusha

Camp B,L,D (D only Day 16)

Today we leave Zanzibar and catch a late ferry (or flight) back to Dar es Salaam and return to our campsite. The evening can be spent reminiscing about our days on the island. The next day we take a long and scenic drive to Arusha, the safari capital of Tanzania. If the weather is favourable and skies are clear we might see Mt Kilimanjaro. After arriving in Arusha, those who are going to explore the Serengeti National Park, prepare for their excursion.

Day 39/40Serengeti/Ngorongoro

Camp B,L,D

There are many options available, ranging from a one-day trip to the Ngorongoro crater, to a three-day trip into the Serengeti. As this is for your own expense, we give you every opportunity to match the activity to your budget. For those not going to the parks, take this opportunity to absorb some of the fascinating local culture. One of the guides will remain with those that decide to stay in Arusha. Optional Activities: Serengeti, Ngorongoro Excursion.

Day 41 Arusha

Camp B,L,D

Today we have the privilege of visiting a local Masai village. Getting together again after our various game viewing activities in the game parks, we spend our last night in this beautiful country exchanging 'big game' stories around the campfire.

Day 42 Kenya – Nairobi

Camp B,L

After crossing the border into Kenya we continue to travel towards Nairobi where the afternoon can be spent relaxing, or visiting one of this cities bustling markets. Optional Activities: Dinner at Carnivore Restaurant

Day 43 – Lake Naivasha National Park

Camp L,D

The tour will leave the capital city of Kenya and travel north to Lake Naivasha where we spend the day at Hells Gate National Park that lies next to this shallow lake. Hell's Gate is named for the huge red-coloured cliffs that form the entrance to the geothermal interior. This is the only National Park where you can go hiking in and activities also include game and bird watching. The park entry fees are included in the tour and a popular optional activity is game viewing on bicycles. Another optional way to spend your afternoon is to take high-tea at Elsamere – the former home of Joy Adams, best known for her autobiographical novel Born Free. Optional Activities: Cycle hire, high tea at Elsamere

Day 44 – Masai Mara National Reserve

Camp B,L,D

The Masai Mara National Reserve is the Kenyan side of the Serengeti National Park (located in Tanzania). Today the tour will be entering this 2430 square kilometer area of spectacular game viewing to photograph some of Africa's most abundant wildlife. Best known for the annual migration of around 1.5 million wildebeest, the Masai Mara is also home to many other plains animals including lions. In addition to what we hope will be a successful day's game viewing, cultural interaction with Kenya's native Masaai people will round off your experience.

Day 45 – Masai Mara and Lake Nakuru National Park

Camp B,L,D

After some further game viewing in the Masai Mara the tour will travel towards central Kenya and the home of the greater and lesser flamingo – Lake Nakuru. Originally created as a bird sanctuary, Lake Nakuru was upgraded to National Park status in 1968. Although the shallow alkaline lake is most famous for the large flocks of flamingos that congregate to feed on the blue-green algae, the National Park is also home to a further 450 species of birds and over 50 species of mammals. White Rhino inhabit the transitional savanna area surrounding the lake and if you are lucky you will get some great pictures.

Day 46 – Nairobi

Tour ends. Own arrangements, B

As this is the last evening together the group may choose to dine together at Nairobi's famous Carnivore Restaurant where vegetarians are catered for, but not encouraged… Optional Activities: Meal out in Nairobi