

56 DAY BEST OF AFRICA NORTH

Day 1 South Africa – Cederberg Mountain Region

Leaving Cape Town we make our first stop at Table View and take photos of Table Mountain from across Table Bay. This spot is the most popular angle for Table Mountain photos! We then travel to the Cederberg region for a guided walk after setting up camp. As you make your way through the hills behind camp you will be introduced to some indigenous flora and fauna along with some cave paintings. Your guide will give a full briefing on the tour.

Meals: Lunch, Dinner

Overnight: Gekko's Backpackers – www.gekko.co.za

Day 2 Namaqualand – Gariep (Orange) River

An early start, then we head north via the distant town of Springbok, best known for its diamonds, copper and spring flowers. We then proceed to our camp located right beside the Namibian border. The camp is situated on the riverbank that forms the border between South Africa and Namibia. If the current is not too strong you may be able to swim across into Namibia, but you'll have to come back and get your passport stamped if you intend on travelling through the country!

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Overnight: Fiddlers Creek Campsite: www.bushwhacked.co.za

Day 3 Namibia – Gariep (Orange) River - Fish River Canyon

This morning there's the chance to see the beautiful river valley by canoe or just relax at camp. After lunch we cross the border and travel to the Fish River Canyon. After a scenic walk along the edge of the canyon we enjoy our dinner while watching the sunset. This is also a fantastic photo opportunity. *Optional Activities: Half-Day Canoe Adventure.*

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Overnight: Hobas Campsite: www.nwr.com.na/hobas.html

Day 4 Namib-Naukluft National Park

We arrive at the Namib-Naukluft National Park and set up camp, then enjoy a short hike into the Sesriem Canyon. Tonight enjoy the star-studded sky and enduring silence of the Namib Desert.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Overnight: Sesriem Campsite: www.nwr.com.na/sesriem_campsite.html

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Day 5 Sossusvlei Dunes - Namib-Naukluft National Park

This is our earliest morning as we prepare for our hike up Dune 45 to marvel at the sunrise. Later, we join a local expert on a guided hike of the unique desert ecosystem and learn how the bushmen survived in the harsh desert conditions.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Overnight: Solitaire Campsite: www.namibialodges.com/solitaire.html

Day 6 Swakopmund

After a brief photo stop while crossing the Tropic of Capricorn, we travel onto Namibia's Atlantic coast and the adventure capital, Swakopmund. Often there are flamingos at the Walvis Bay lagoon, just before we arrive in Swakopmund. You will be briefed on the many optional activities available here and then there is time to explore the town before dinner out at one of the local restaurants. *Optional Activities: Dinner out*

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Overnight: Villa Wiese Hostel (Dorm Room): www.villawiese.com

Day 7 Swakopmund

The whole day is free to relax, explore or partake in one of the many activities available here. Most popular are Quad biking in the Dunes or Tandem Skydiving. On a clear day's skydiving you can see all the way to the next day's destination! Taking a walk around Swakopmund's shops and having a leisurely lunch is also a great way to spend your day. *Optional Activities: Quad biking, Sand boarding, Sky Diving, Dolphin Cruise, Scenic Flights, Fishing, Dinner out etc.*

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Overnight: Villa Wiese Hostel (Dorm Room): www.villawiese.com

Day 8 Spitzkoppe

Leaving the coast we drive through arid landscapes to Spitzkoppe Mountain. The enormous limestone monoliths dominate the otherwise flat landscape and we set up camp in the wild plain at the base. This afternoon there is an included walk.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Overnight: Spitzkoppe Community Campsite:

www.nacobta.com.na/lists_details.php?cat_id=2&sub_cat_id=26

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Day 9 Himba Tribes

After some early morning exploration we continue north and drive towards Kamanjab. Today we have the chance to experience life within a Himba tribe. The Himba are a pastoral people and predominantly breed cattle or goats. They are easily recognisable by their unique style of dress.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Overnight: Kamanjab Camp – no website available

Day 10/11 Etosha National Park

Etosha is the venue for some of the most unique game viewing experiences in Africa. The sparse grasslands allow great opportunities to see animals normally hidden in dense vegetation. You may even see some of the amazing animals crossing the road in front of your truck! We will go on various game drives, and spend our evenings at the abundant water holes for some excellent game photography. *Optional Activities: Night or Dawn Drives in safari vehicles*

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Overnight: Halali and/or Okaukuejo: www.nwr.com.na/etosha_national_park.html

Day 12 Windhoek

After an early morning game drive we set off towards Windhoek, the Capital city of Namibia. On the way we stop at a popular craft market where you can barter for handmade gifts to take home. We take a short tour around Windhoek, not only the capital, also the cultural, social and economic centre of the Namibia. *Optional Activities: Dinner out.*

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Overnight: Monteiro Camp: www.monteironamibia.com

Day 13 Botswana - Ghanzi

An early start, then we cross into Botswana and drive to Ghanzi. After setting up camp we meet with a local Bushman (San) community and experience some traditional tribal dancing.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Overnight: Ghanzi Trail Blazers: <http://ghanzitrailblazers.wheretostay.na/>

Day 14 Maun

Our journey takes us from Ghanzi towards Maun. Maun is the gateway to the Okavango Delta and this afternoon we will prepare for this excursion, packing small 2-night bags. There may be opportunity this afternoon to visit the local crocodile farm or take a scenic flight. *Optional Activity: Crocodile Farm visit*



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Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Overnight: Sitatunga Camp: <http://www.deltarain.com/index.php?page=sitatunga-camp>

Day 15/16 Maun – Okavango Delta

This morning we board the big 4x4 truck that will take us in to the Delta, in high-water season it is sometimes necessary to take a boat to the poling station where we meet up with the members of a local community who will be showing us their homeland. We spend 2-night bush camping in the wilderness and, if the water level allows, we will take a mokoro trip.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Overnight: Bush Camp: www.deltarain.com

Day 17 Gweta

We leave the Delta behind us and travel east to Planet Baobab. You can explore the bush around our campsite, lounge by the pool and view some of the region's oldest Baobab trees. *Optional Activity: Scenic flight over the Delta (time allowing)*

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Overnight: Planet Baobab Campsite: www.unchartedafrica.co.za/page.php?p_id=59

Day 18 Botswana - Chobe National Park

We travel to Chobe and this afternoon we take an included sunset river cruise, as the animals are best spotted from the Chobe River. Elephants, Hippo, Crocodiles, Eland and many other creatures reside in Chobe so keep your cameras ready.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Overnight: Thebe River Safaris (no website available)

Day 19/20/21 Zimbabwe - Victoria Falls

On arrival in Victoria Falls we have time to plan the next day's adventure activities before we visit the spectacular Victoria Falls and experience the thundering of the mighty Zambezi. *Optional Activities: Chobe morning game drive, Sunset Cruise, Dinner out, White Water Rafting, Bungee Jump, Elephant Excursion, Walking with Lions, Horse Riding and much more...*

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch day 19 only

Overnight: Savanna Lodge (Dorm Rooms): www.safpar.co.za/savanna.html



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Day 22 Lusaka

Leaving behind the natural wonder of Victoria Falls we continue 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: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Overnight: Pioneers Camp: www.pioneercampzambia.com

Day 23 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 24 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 an included sunset game drive in the South Luangwa NP.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Overnight: Wildlife Camp: www.wildlifecamp-zambia.com

Day 25 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 26/27 Malawi – Lake Malawi National Park

Today we enter Malawi and after a short stop in Lilongwe we travel south to Monkey Bay in the Lake Malawi National Park. This area has been designated a World Heritage site and the protected area has an abundance of aquatic life.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Overnight: Fat Monkeys Camp (no website available)



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Day 28/29 Kande Beach

We take a scenic drive to Kande beach where there are many optional activities available such as horse riding and different water sports. On our second day here we have an included guided village walk in order to meet the local people and learn more about Malawian life. *Optional Activities: Water Sports, Horse Riding, Craft Shopping etc.*

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Overnight: Kande Beach: www.kandebeach.com

Day 30/31 Northern Lake Malawi - Chitimba

We travel further north and spend our last 2 days in Malawi at Chitimba beach. For those that have had enough of beautiful lake views there is an overnight hike to the Livingstonia Mission Station in the highland area. This working mission was set up by Scottish Presbyterian followers of David Livingstone in 1894 and is 900m above the lake. There is also a shorter hike to the Manchawe Falls. *Optional Activities: Hike to Livingstonia Mission, watersports, abseiling etc.*

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Overnight: Chitimba: www.chitimba.com

Day 32 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 33 Dar es Salaam

Our journey today brings us out of the cool highland region of Iringa 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

Day 34/35/36 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



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explored. The following day we take a transfer to the northern part of the island where we will spend 2 days relaxing on the beach. *Optional Activities: Lunch & Dinner, Swimming with Dolphins, Scuba Diving, Snorkelling etc.*

Meals: Breakfast x 3

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

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

Day 37 Dar es Salaam

Today we leave Zanzibar and catch a late ferry back to Dar es Salaam and return to our truck and campsite. The evening can be spent reminiscing about our days on the island.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Overnight: Kipepeo Camp: www.kipepeocamp.com

Day 38 Arusha

Today we take a long and scenic drive to Arusha, the safari capital of Tanzania and known for its authentic craft markets. On a clear day it's possible to see Mt Kilimanjaro and Mt Meru. Arusha is home to some excellent craft shops.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Overnight: Meserani Oasis Camp or Snake Park: no website available

Day 39/40 Serengeti and Ngorongoro Excursion

These 2 days are set aside for the optional 2-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: Serengeti & Ngorongoro Excursion.*

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Overnight: Seronera and Simba Campsites: www.serengeti.org

Day 41 Arusha

Today those that went into the Serengeti and Ngorongoro will return to Arusha where there will be time to share stories of the wonderful African animals seen in the park. In the afternoon we visit the local Masai Mara Museum and Snake Park.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Overnight: Meserani Oasis Camp or Snake Park: no website available

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Day 42 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 43 Nairobi to Lake Naivasha / Hell's Gate NP

Leaving Nairobi we travel north to Lake Naivasha and then to Hell's Gate NP. Here, one of the more popular optional activities is to go game viewing on a bicycle. *Optional Activities: Cycle hire, High Tea at Elsamere.*

Meals: Lunch, Dinner

Overnight: Fish Eagle Camp: www.fisheagleinn.co.ke

Day 44 Masai Mara National Reserve

The Masai Mara National Reserve is the Kenyan side of the Serengeti NP (located in Tanzania). Today the tour will be entering 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 Masai people will round off your experience.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Overnight: Masai Mara Camp: www.kws.go.ke

Day 45 Nakuru National Park

This morning there's more game viewing in the Masai Mara before 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)

Day 46 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

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Day 47 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

Overnight: Red Chilli Hideaway: www.redchillihideaway.com

Day 48 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.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Overnight: Lake Bunyonyi Campsite: www.bunyonyioverland.com

Day 49/50/51 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 to provide a large time to allow the entire group to trek if there are more than 6 of you on the tour.

Day 52 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.*



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Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Overnight: Queen Elizabeth National Park: www.uwa.or.ug/queen.html

Day 53/54 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. If you do not want to go rafting, why not volunteer for the day at Soft Power Education. Optional Activities: White Water Rafting, Soft Power Education Project.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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

Day 55 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 56 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.

