

Topdeck

EAST AFRICAN EXPLORER 21 DAY



TRIP CODE:
ZOCKLN-9

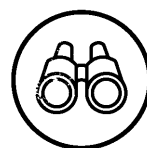
TOPDECKER, meet Non-Commissionable

Wanna combine a beach getaway with once-in-a-lifetime wildlife encounters? This all-encompassing African adventure will suit you more than a pith hat suits a park ranger! Relax on tropical island Zanzibar and recline on Lake Malawi's beaches before getting up close and personal with the famed 'Big Five' at Serengeti National Park and Ngorongoro Crater. Good times guaranteed!

WORTH NOTING...

Please note, a sleeping bag is REQUIRED if the camping option is selected.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



Explorer

20

Nights



Download app

52

Meals

Thanks for choosing to holiday with Topdeck

Ready for the time of your LIFE?
The countdown's on...

ABOUT YOUR TRIP NOTES

These Trip Notes contain everything you need to know before your trip departs – from where to meet your Topdeck fam to what we suggest you bring.

Read them on the train, in the supermarket queue or on the loo – we don't mind, just look through them carefully so you know what to expect on your trip. We recommend you download this document so it's with you when you travel (and give a copy to your MVPs so they know what you're up to).

IMPORTANT: please refresh this doc as close to your departure as possible. This means you'll have the most up-to-date info available.

INCLUDED EXPERIENCES

- Visit Mosi-oa-Tunya National Park (Victoria Falls)
- Visit South Luangwa National Park
- South Luangwa National Park game drive
- Ferry to Zanzibar
- Ferry to Dar Es Salaam
- Visit a Maasai village
- Visit a snake park
- Visit Serengeti National Park and Ngorongoro Crater

YOUR ITINERARY



AWESOME
TRIP
LEADER



DRIVER

DAY 1 | LIVINGSTONE, ZAMBIA TO LUSAKA

This. Is. Africa! We'll kick things off on the banks of the great Zambezi River in adventure-loving Livingstone, where we'll visit the thundering Victoria Falls. At over a mile wide, the falls form the largest curtain of falling water in the world, with spray visible from 20 kilometres away – hence the local name Mosi-oa-Tunya ('the smoke that thunders'). Later today, we'll make tracks to Zambia's urban metropolis, Lusaka. A commercial hub and centre for the government, Lusaka is home to dusty tree-lined streets and bustling local markets that ooze African flair. Our campsite for the evening is set in a tranquil and relaxing spot on a farm, far from the hustle and bustle of the city.



MEALS:

- Lunch
- Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Visit Mosi-oa-Tunya National Park (Victoria Falls)

DAY 2 | LUSAKA TO SOUTH LUANGWA

We'll leave Lusaka early this morning and take the Great Eastern Road through lush countryside to South Luangwa National Park. This area of outstanding natural beauty is rightly known as one of the greatest wildlife sanctuaries in the world. Did you know? The concentration of animals around the Luangwa River and its oxbow lagoons is among the most intense in Africa. After setting up camp, the rest of the day is yours to enjoy however you like. Anyone for an optional village tour or walking safari?



MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Visit South Luangwa National Park



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Village tour
- Walking safari

DAY 3 | SOUTH LUANGWA TO SOUTH LUANGWA NATIONAL PARK

What better way to start the day than with a morning game drive along the river's edge? A whole bunch of animals and birds call this area home. After the game drive, kick back at Warthogs Bar or take a dip in the swimming pool (100% the best place to cool off during the hot hours of the day).



MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

- South Luangwa National Park game drive



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Village tour
- Walking safari

DAY 4 | SOUTH LUANGWA NATIONAL PARK TO KANDE BEACH, MALAWI

Also known as 'Lake Nyasa', Lake Malawi covers almost a fifth of the country's area and provides the livelihood for many fishermen. True story. Expect to see the locals in their bwato (dugout canoes made from hollowed-out tree trunks) fishing on the lake at the break of day. After arriving at Kande Beach, you'll have some free time to get acquainted with the area. Sweet!



MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Dinner



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Horse riding
- Scuba diving
- Snorkelling

DAY 5 | KANDE BEACH

Wanna grab a slice of today's optionals? Go for it! We've got horse riding, snorkelling and scuba diving on offer. It's also worth taking the time to get to know some of the locals – they're renowned for being some of the friendliest in Africa!



MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Dinner



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Horse riding
- Scuba diving
- Snorkelling

DAY 6 | KANDE BEACH TO CHITIMBA BEACH

Today we'll take a scenic drive through rubber plantations to Mzuzu, the capital of the northern region and the third largest town in Malawi. After stopping to grab supplies, we'll head to Chitimba Beach – our home for the next two nights.



MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Dinner

DAY 7 | CHITIMBA BEACH

Got itchy feet? Then you may wanna take an optional hike to Livingstonia with a local guide. Be sure to rest up beforehand – the trek may take a while!



MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Dinner



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Hike to Livingstonia

DAY 8 | CHITIMBA BEACH TO IRINGA, TANZANIA

Today we'll climb through Tanzania's Southern Highlands all the way to Kisolanza Farm House – a working farm famous for its hot showers and chocolate brownies. Home to the Ghaui family for over 70 years, Kisolanza provides beef, lamb, chicken and vegetables to the surrounding markets, as well as further afield in Dar es Salaam.



MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Dinner

DAY 9 | IRINGA TO MIKUMI NATIONAL PARK

Today we'll make our way east to Mikumi, where there's an optional National Park visit on offer. Tonight: sip sundowners at the local bar before gathering around the open fire and stargazing at our camp.



MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Dinner



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Visit Mikumi National Park

DAY 10 | MIKUMI NATIONAL PARK TO DAR ES SALAAM

With luck, we may spot forest elephants or giraffes feeding near the side of the road on our way to Dar es Salaam – a humid, bustling seaport city full of high rises and colourful markets. We'll set up camp at our site on the beach just outside of the city centre, with a chance to browse the local markets (if we have time) before heading to Zanzibar tomorrow.



MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Dinner

DAY 11 | DAR ES SALAAM TO ZANZIBAR

After kicking things off in Dar es Salaam, we'll hop on a ferry and set a course for the island of Zanzibar. Once in Stone Town, choose from the optional activities: a spice tour, a visit to the Arab Fort, the site of the old slave market or the Palace Museum are all here. Please note: As we leave the truck on the mainland, basic safari lodge/hotel accommodation and breakfast on Zanzibar is included. However, you will need to arrange your own lunches and dinners. We usually divide our nights in Zanzibar between accommodation in Stone Town and accommodation on one of the northern beaches, but there are no set activities – the time is entirely yours to do as you please.



MEALS:

- Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Ferry to Zanzibar



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Spice tour
- Visit the old slave market site
- Visit the Arabic Fort
- Visit the Palace Museum

DAY 12 | ZANZIBAR

Zanzibar is known as 'Spice Island'. Go for a wander around the bazaars today and you'll soon discover why! This afternoon, we'll swap Stone Town for the beautiful beaches in the north of the island. Why not try a spot of optional scuba diving or a snorkelling safari? If you just wanna relax, you could always opt in for a massage...



MEALS:

- Breakfast



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Spice tour
- Scuba diving
- Dhow snorkelling safari
- Massage

DAY 13 | ZANZIBAR

You've got a free day to spend on Zanzibar's palm-fringed beaches. Snorkel, scuba dive and round off your day with a sunset cruise (all optional). We won't blame you if you never want to leave!



MEALS:

- Breakfast



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Spice tour
- Scuba diving
- Dhow snorkelling safari
- Massage

DAY 14 | ZANZIBAR

It's your last full day on this beautiful island, so make the most of it. Take to the water, or just get your tan on.



MEALS:

- Breakfast



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Spice tour
- Scuba diving
- Dhow snorkelling safari
- Massage

DAY 15 | ZANZIBAR TO DAR ES SALAAM

Bye bye, Zanzibar! We're jumping on the ferry back to vibrant Dar es Salaam, where we've got your dinner covered.



MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Ferry to Dar Es Salaam

DAY 16 | DAR ES SALAAM TO MARANGU

All aboard our overland truck! Today we're travelling inland from the Indian Ocean coast to the grassy plains of Northern Tanzania. Tonight we'll camp in Marangu, a town close to the base of Mt Kilimanjaro. Keep an eye out for the mighty mountain's peak.



MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Dinner

DAY 17 | MARANGU TO ARUSHA

Today we'll continue on to Tanzania's sprawling safari capital: Arusha. Here, we'll head out on a guided walk in the local Maasai village and you can even cross off a true bucket list experience with an optional camel ride! Oh – we'll also swing by a snake park today.



MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Visit a Maasai village
- Visit a snake park



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Camel ride

DAY 18 | ARUSHA TO SERENGETI NATIONAL PARK

Prep your day pack (or a small bag) – today we're transferring to smaller 4x4 vehicles for a two-night/three-day game viewing trip through Serengeti National Park and Ngorongoro Crater. Trust us, these safari vehicles are decked out with ALL the animal spotting necessities – pop-up roof included. After passing into the park we'll drive around the crater's rim and down onto the Serengeti plains, where we'll try to spot the Big Five (as well as hyenas, cheetahs, wildebeest and antelopes). Wow x 100.



MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Visit Serengeti National Park and Ngorongoro Crater

DAY 19 | SERENGETI NATIONAL PARK TO NGORONGORO CRATER

Spend the morning game driving out on the plains, then ascend the outer wall of the Ngorongoro Crater (after a well-deserved lunch, of course). Tonight we'll camp on the rim of the crater. Did you know? At 326 square kilometres in area, the Ngorongoro Crater is Africa's largest intact caldera AND a World Heritage Site.



MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Visit Serengeti National Park and Ngorongoro Crater

DAY 20 | NGORONGORO CRATER TO ARUSHA

Rise and shine! This morning, we'll descend down the steep dirt road of the Ngorongoro Crater for a spot of game driving. Keep your eye out for all the major mammals – except giraffes, which struggle to manage the steep slopes leading down onto the crater floor. After our game drive, we'll retrace our steps to our campsite in Arusha.



MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Visit Serengeti National Park and Ngorongoro Crater

DAY 21 | ARUSHA TO NAIROBI, KENYA

Today we'll make our way across the Maasai Steppe to the Kenyan frontier. When we get to Nairobi, we'll go our separate ways. Where to next?



MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Lunch

MEALS

Your included meals are detailed in the 'Included Essentials' section of this document.

While on the road, you will be provided with three meals a day (unless otherwise stated). African Overland trips are participation based, which means you will be expected to do your bit for the team by helping with cooking and cleaning up duties. In some places, we will be able to go out for a meal.

If you have any dietary requirements, we'll make every effort to cater to your needs – as long as you advise your travel agent or Customer Service Consultant when you book. You can also make a note of dietary requirements in the Topdeck app when you check-in.

PLEASE NOTE: Although we'll do everything in our power to cater to your needs, we cannot guarantee this will be possible in every restaurant we visit. We also cannot cater for tastes or dislikes, as most of our included evening meals feature a set menu.

OTHER INFORMATION

TOPDECK APP

Feeling appy? Download the Topdeck app and get PUMPED for the adventure ahead. Best bit is: from 45 days before departure you'll be able to chat with your soon-to-be tripmates.

Plus, get your itinerary at your fingertips – so you know where you'll be going and what you'll be doing on each day of your trip. Nice!

Links:

Apple <https://apps.apple.com/gb/app/topdeck/id994727866>

Android <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.FlexiTechSolutions.TopDeck&hl=en>



YOUR SAFETY

NIGHTS OUT

We love a good night out – experiencing the nightlife and entertainment places have to offer is a big part of travelling. But alongside the fun it's important to be aware of your surroundings and personal safety.

When you're out late, remember to avoid walking alone – particularly through deserted areas like beaches and back streets. Always stick together, take a registered taxi where possible, and keep a note of your accommodation so you can find your way back to your fellow Topdeckers if you become separated. Make sure you have your trip mates' mobile numbers in case you need to get hold of them while out and about.

In some countries, alcoholic measures can be considerably larger than what you may be used to. Try to keep track of what you're drinking – and if you see one of your trip mates looking a little worse for wear, take them back to your accommodation. Never leave your drink unattended.

It's also important to be aware that what you might consider harmless flirting may be interpreted differently in some countries. Be yourself and have fun, but stay savvy – you don't want to find yourself in an uncomfortable situation.

DRUG USE

Topdeck has a strict zero-tolerance drug policy. Customers should not bring any illegal substances onto the Topdeck coach or into any of the accommodation we stay in on our trips. This includes marijuana – even if it is legal in some of the states your trip passes through. If you are found in possession of drugs, you will be removed from the trip immediately. All instances of drug possession will be reported to Topdeck Head Office, who may consider alerting the relevant authorities.

REMEMBER: if you are found in possession of drugs, not only do you risk getting in trouble with the local police, but our Driver will also be held responsible if they are found on the Topdeck coach. Trust us, you don't want that to happen to any of our Drivers – they're awesome.

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Culture shock, homesickness, random periods of feeling down – these things happen and are totally normal. You can rest assured that if you're feeling low, your Topdeck crew will do their utmost to cheer you up.

Measures you can take to look after your mental health and wellbeing while on the road with us are:

- Call home. Sometimes it's nice to hear a familiar voice and have a good old-fashioned catch up with your loved ones
- Eat well. Never underestimate the power of a good, wholesome meal. Nobody feels at their best when they're hungry!

- Drink responsibly. Not only will you swerve the dreaded hangover, but by keeping an eye on what you drink you could also avoid getting into any potentially uncomfortable situations
- Talk to your Trip Leader. Don't forget, they're probably far from home too – so they're sure to know some tried- and- tested ways to beat the blues
- Integrate with your fellow Topdeckers. This one is key! The more fun you're having on your trip, the less likely you are to feel homesick (fact!)

TRAVEL SINCE COVID-19

Travel looks a bit different since COVID-19. That's why we've put some new procedures in place to help keep you safe on the road.

What remains the same? Your Topdeck trip will be run hygienically, responsibly, and with your safety at the forefront of everything we do. End of.

Here's the info: <https://www.topdeck.travel/resources/travel-safely>

RESPECT ON THE ROAD

RESPECTING FELLOW TRAVELLERS

Our trips are for everyone. We're a family – and we want every Topdecker to have an incredible time.

What we're not about is excluding people or making them feel like they don't belong. That's why we always encourage Topdeckers to be kind and courteous to their fellow tripmates . The golden rules? Respect each other's space, be mindful of causing excessive noise in shared accommodation, and treat others how you'd wish to be treated. Easy!

HOW TO BE A RESPONSIBLE TRAVELLER

Responsible travel isn't difficult to achieve. With a little conscious thought and preparation, you can have an awesome adventure AND a positive impact on the places you visit. Sweet!

Here are five things you can do to ensure you're travelling responsibly:

- Conserve water. You know the drill – reuse your room towels, take short showers and remember to turn off the tap when you're brushing your teeth
- Reduce your waste. Ditch the plastic bag, refuse unnecessary packaging, dispose of your waste responsibly and recycle as much as possible
- Go local. Hunt down locally owned and operated restaurants and bars, shop in local markets, and book tours and activities run by local guides
- Consider the wildlife. Avoid any attractions that involve closely engaging with wild animals
- Respect local people and culture. Obeying local laws is a given – but also remember to dress and behave in a manner appropriate to the community. Be polite and keep an open mind!

INSURANCE

Before your trip departs, it's compulsory for all passengers to take out comprehensive travel insurance covering cancellation, medical expenses (including repatriation), loss or damage to baggage and personal belongings, money and personal liability.

Head to our FAQ for more info: <https://www.topdeck.travel/resources/faqs-0>

Got more Qs? Chat with our Customer Service team: <https://www.topdeck.travel/about-us/contact>

PASSPORTS AND VISAS

Please make sure your passport is valid for at least six months after the last day of your trip. Some countries will refuse entry if you do not have at least six months validity remaining on your passport after your departure date. Depending on your nationality, you may require a visa to enter certain countries.

It is your responsibility to obtain visas prior to your trip's departure. To determine which visas you'll need, you can consult either your own government's website or the government websites of the countries in which you will be travelling. Check out our handy interactive map showing global visa requirements:

<https://www.topdeck.travel/resources/latest-border-restrictions>

PLEASE NOTE: some visas can take up to six weeks to acquire, so don't leave it until the last minute. Also, bear in mind that the validity of a visa often runs from its date of issue rather than the date of entry into the country. Please check with the appropriate embassy/embassies prior to departure, as requirements do change periodically.

TIPPING

Basically: it's not necessary.

Your Trip Leader and Driver don't expect tips, and they won't ask for any either. Meaning? More dollar to spend on optional activities (and a souvenir for your nan).

WHAT TO BRING

Based on our experience, these items are key. Everyone's different though – so if you want to bring more or less, go for it! (As long as you don't exceed your 20kg allowance, that is.)

- 1 pair of comfortable walking shoes
- 1 pair of smart casual shoes
- 1 pair of thongs/jandals/flip-flops
- 2 pairs of jeans/trousers
- 2 pairs of shorts/skirts
- 4 shirts/T-shirts
- 2 sweaters/jumpers
- Smart casual evening wear
- 1 rainproof jacket
- 1 warm jacket
- Underwear and socks

- Swimwear
- Towel
- Toiletries
- Hat and sunscreen
- Basic medical kit (including plasters, aspirin etc)
- Insect repellent
- Conversion plug
- Padlock
- Reusable water bottle
- Sleeping bag (for all camping and Sun & Safari passengers)



THAT'S IT!