

Topdeck

GAME PARKS & GORILLAS



TRIP CODE:

ZOKCGD-9



Topdecker, MEET AFRICA

Treat yourself to your very own African experience as you embark on this unforgettable adventure from Kenya's Great Rift Valley to the island paradise of Zanzibar - with a very special wildlife encounter with the beautiful mountain gorillas in between! Top it all off with a well deserved rest on Zanzibar and you've got yourself one pretty spectacular holiday.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



Overland



Nights



Android/iPhone app
download info



This is a principal
package.

Hi, AND THANKS FOR CHOOSING TO HOLIDAY WITH TOPDECK

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We really appreciate your decision to travel with us, and rest assured that the entire Topdeck team will be pulling out all the stops to make your trip an unforgettable one.

Now it's time to get excited and get ready for a fantastic holiday!

From all the crew at Topdeck Travel

ABOUT YOUR TRIP NOTES

These Trip Notes contain everything you need to know before your trip departs, including where to meet, what to bring and what you can expect on your trip of a lifetime! Also, you can easily download and print this document off so you can check off the lists or bring it with you when you travel.

Please do bear in mind though, some points should be taken as a guide only - after all, everyone's different! For example, daily spending money and clothing lists can vary greatly from one person to the next so don't be alarmed if you don't expect to spend (or even wear) so much! However, we're sure you'll find the information in general to be very useful.

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PLEASE NOTE: We strongly urge you to refresh this document as close to the time of your departure as possible to ensure you have the most up-to-date accommodation list and information available.

ON THE BUCKET LIST (INCLUDED)

- + Visit the Great Rift Valley
- + Visit Lake Nakuru National Park
- + Visit Queen Elizabeth National Park
- + Mountain gorilla trek (part of Gorilla permit payment)
- + Chimpanzee trek (part of Gorilla permit payment)
- + Visit Maasai Mara National Reserve
- + Maasai village walk
- + Visit Serengeti National Park and Ngorongoro Crater
- + Visit Zanzibar

MORE INCLUSIONS

- + Visit the Great Rift Valley
- + Visit Lake Nakuru National Park
- + Queen Elizabeth National Park chimpanzee trek (either day 4 or day 5)
- + Mountain gorilla trek (either day 7 or day 8)
- + Visit Maasai Mara National Reserve
- + Maasai village walk
- + Visit Serengeti National Park
- + Visit Serengeti National Park and Ngorongoro Crater
- + Visit Ngorongoro Crater
- + Ferry to Zanzibar
- + Ferry to Dar Es Salaam

YOUR TRIP WILL START

PICK UP:

Nairobi
Africa

YOUR TRIP WILL FINISH

DROP OFF:

Dar es Salaam
Africa

Trip currencies

- + Kenya - KES
- + Uganda - UGX
- + Tanzania - TZS

Your Itinerary



**AWESOME TRIP
LEADER**



DRIVER

DAY 1 | NAIROBI, KENYA TO LAKE NAKURU NATIONAL PARK

Get excited. This. Is. Africa! First up: Kenya's Great Rift Valley and Lake Nakuru National Park, where we'll kick things off with a game drive. Best known for its birdlife, Nakuru also contains plenty of rhinos, leopards, warthogs, baboons and lions – so keep those eyes peeled.



MEALS:

- + Lunch
- + Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

- + Visit the Great Rift Valley
- + Visit Lake Nakuru National Park

DAY 2 | LAKE NAKURU NATIONAL PARK TO ELDORET

Today we'll kick it north through the highlands to Eldoret, a thriving town on the Kenya-Uganda highway. Grab dinner and go exploring before we move on to Kampala tomorrow.



MEALS:

- + Breakfast
- + Lunch
- + Dinner

DAY 3 | ELDORET TO KAMPALA, UGANDA

Get ready to roll into Uganda's bustling capital city. With a rich history to explore (not to mention a whole bunch of shops, attractions and gardens) you certainly won't be short of things to do here.



MEALS:

- + Breakfast
- + Lunch
- + Dinner

DAY 4 | KAMPALA TO QUEEN ELIZABETH NATIONAL PARK

From Kampala we'll travel west towards Queen Elizabeth National Park, checking out green terraced hillsides, lush banana plantations, steep mountains and tangled forests along the way. Don't forget to keep an eye out for herds of Ankole cattle! When we reach the national park, a spot of chimpanzee trekking is on the cards. OMG.



MEALS:

- + Breakfast
- + Lunch
- + Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

- + Queen Elizabeth National Park chimpanzee trek (either day 4 or day 5)

DAY 5 | QUEEN ELIZABETH NATIONAL PARK

If the amazing mountain #views aren't enough for you this morning, wait till you see Lake Edwards and Lake George! Did you know? Queen Elizabeth National Park has over 500 species of birds and 100 species of mammals, making it one of the most biodiverse national parks in the world. If you're lucky, you might get to spot a few critters en route to Kyambura Gorge for the trek to see the chimpanzees (if you didn't already make this journey yesterday). Unlike their mountain gorilla cousins, chimps live mostly in the trees, so keep an eye up high!



MEALS:

- + Breakfast
- + Lunch
- + Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

- + Queen Elizabeth National Park chimpanzee trek (either day 4 or day 5)

DAY 6 | QUEEN ELIZABETH NATIONAL PARK TO LAKE BUNYONYI

Over the next three days, you and your adventure buddies will be split into two groups. On the first day, one group will trek to see the amazing mountain gorillas up close, while the others will have a free day of chilling out on the lake. Then the next day, the groups will swap. Quick fact: the Lake Bunyonyi region is home to the world's remaining 770 mountain gorillas, many of which inhabit the Bwindi Impenetrable National Park. On the day of our trek, we'll meet our local guide and tracker bright and early before venturing into the rainforest. The trek can be demanding at times (look out for uneven terrain and hill climbs), but trust us – the privilege of spending time with a family of these gentle giants will make the effort totally worthwhile. Excited yet? We sure are! What can you do at Lake Bunyonyi when you're not trekking, you ask? Good question. Take your pick from our optionals: hire a canoe, hop on a boat trip or check out a traditional dance performance. If you're all about the animal life, you can even indulge in a spot of bird watching. Wanna chill? We won't judge. You'll have plenty of time to relax around camp and send a few postcards home.



MEALS:

- + Breakfast
- + Lunch
- + Dinner

DAY 7 | LAKE BUNYONYI

If you're not on today's trek, take advantage of some free time by the lake with a bunch of boredom-killer activities. Hire canoes and swing by some of the islands, wander the local villages or channel your inner explorer with a nature walk.



MEALS:

- + Breakfast
- + Lunch
- + Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

- + Mountain gorilla trek (either day 7 or day 8)



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- + Island boat trip
- + Visit a local village
- + Hire a canoe
- + Watch a traditional dance
- + Go bird watching

DAY 8 | LAKE BUNYONYI

Got a free day? Yesterday's optionals are still here for you! Spend your time swanning around the campsite or discover why this area is known as the 'place of many birds' with a spot of bird watching. What's it gonna be?



MEALS:

- + Breakfast
- + Lunch
- + Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

- + Mountain gorilla trek (either day 7 or day 8)



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- + Island boat trip
- + Visit a local village
- + Hire a canoe
- + Watch a traditional dance
- + Go bird watching

DAY 9 | LAKE BUNYONYI TO KAMPALA

After your once-in-a-lifetime gorilla experience, it's time to venture out of the wilderness and back into civilisation as we hit the road to Kampala.



MEALS:

- + Breakfast
- + Lunch
- + Dinner

DAY 10 | KAMPALA TO JINJA

Onwards to Jinja – a great place for optionals like kayaking, whitewater rafting and bird watching.



MEALS:

- + Breakfast
- + Lunch
- + Dinner

DAY 11 | JINJA

Since our camp in Jinja overlooks a dramatic set of rapids (known as Bujagali Falls), it's no surprise the region is somewhat of an adrenalin playground. Best make the most of it while you're here!



MEALS:

- + Breakfast
- + Lunch
- + Dinner



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- + Bungy jumping
- + Quad biking
- + Whitewater rafting
- + Community school project
- + Nile cruise
- + Stand up paddleboarding
- + Kayaking
- + Fishing trip
- + Mountain biking
- + Bird watching

DAY 12 | JINJA

When you've had your fill of heart-racing activities, why not roll up your sleeves and take the opportunity to make a difference to the local community by volunteering? Soft Power Education is a locally run volunteer programme aimed at building and improving schools in the Jinja area. Your contribution of a few hours of painting or plastering is always most welcome (and serves as a great mood booster, too).



MEALS:

- + Breakfast
- + Lunch
- + Dinner



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- + Bungy jumping
- + Quad biking
- + Whitewater rafting
- + Community school project
- + Nile cruise
- + Stand up paddleboarding
- + Kayaking
- + Fishing trip
- + Mountain biking
- + Bird watching

DAY 13 | JINJA TO ELDORET, KENYA

After our excitement-filled break in Jinja we'll retrace our steps across the border into Kenya. Then: it's off to Eldoret we go! Tonight, share a few laughs with your travel buds and toast the end of your trip with one last night around the campfire.



MEALS:

- + Breakfast
- + Lunch
- + Dinner

DAY 14 | ELDORET TO NAIROBI

After breakfast we'll carry on along the Rift Valley to Nairobi. Spend some time exploring the markets, book shops, cafés and restaurants on foot.



MEALS:

- + Breakfast

DAY 15 | NAIROBI

Yes! You've got a free day in Nairobi. If you're stuck for ideas, your Trip Leader will be more than happy to help you arrange optional local excursions in and around the city!



MEALS:

- + Breakfast

DAY 16 | NAIROBI TO MAASAI MARA NATIONAL RESERVE

Next up: the Maasai Mara National Reserve, Kenya's best-known game park. Looking for the real Africa? This is it! We'll spend two nights camping here, with plenty of time to explore the park and meet the locals on morning and afternoon game drives. Keep your eyes peeled for some (if not all) of Africa's 'Big Five' (elephant, lion, rhino, buffalo and leopard) and a whole bunch of other wildlife, too.



MEALS:

- + Breakfast
- + Lunch
- + Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

- + Visit Maasai Mara National Reserve

DAY 17 | MAASAI MARA NATIONAL RESERVE

You've got another day to soak up the Mara's rolling grasslands and broad horizons (heart eyes emoji). Watch out for wildebeest and zebras!



MEALS:

- + Breakfast
- + Lunch
- + Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

- + Visit Maasai Mara National Reserve

DAY 18 | MAASAI MARA NATIONAL RESERVE TO NAIROBI

Leaving the incredible natural wonderland of the Maasai Mara behind us, today we'll hit the road back to the chaotic city of Nairobi, where we'll stay overnight.



MEALS:

- + Breakfast
- + Lunch

DAY 19 | NAIROBI TO ARUSHA, TANZANIA

After crossing the border into Tanzania, we'll arrive at our next destination: Arusha. This place is Tanzania's 'safari capital' – a bustling city with colourful markets, nestling in the shadow of Mt Meru. If we have time, we'll take a guided walk in a Maasai village to learn about the local culture before heading to our camp (if not, we'll do it on day 22). But first: anyone for an optional camel ride?



MEALS:

- + Breakfast
- + Lunch
- + Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

- + Maasai village walk



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- + Camel ride

DAY 20 | ARUSHA TO SERENGETI NATIONAL PARK

Today we'll switch to smaller 4x4 vehicles as we head west to Serengeti National Park. Don your khaki greens, 'cos we're going all-out safari mode! Exciting. Passing into the park, we'll drive around the crater rim and down onto the Serengeti plains, which are home to an huge variety of grazing animals and birdlife. Flatter and larger than the Maasai Mara, the Serengeti certainly lives up to its nickname: 'the place where the land moves on forever'.



MEALS:

- + Breakfast
- + Lunch
- + Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

- + Visit Serengeti National Park

DAY 21 | SERENGETI NATIONAL PARK TO NGORONGORO CRATER

Rise and shine! This morning we're heading out on a game drive beyond the plains – and after lunch, we'll ascend the outer wall of the awesome Ngorongoro Crater. Tonight, we'll stay on the rim of the crater (read: pack your warmest jacket).



MEALS:

- + Breakfast
- + Lunch
- + Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

- + Visit Serengeti National Park and Ngorongoro Crater

DAY 22 | NGORONGORO CRATER TO ARUSHA

Today, we're headed inside the Ngorongoro Crater for a morning of game driving and wildlife spotting. It's a tough life. Then: it's back to Arusha. If we didn't already do it on day 19, we'll visit a Maasai village this afternoon.



MEALS:

- + Breakfast
- + Lunch
- + Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

- + Visit Ngorongoro Crater

DAY 23 | ARUSHA TO BAGAMOYO

Next stop, Bagamoyo. If we're lucky with the weather, we might even get to see an ah-mazing snow-capped Mount Kilimanjaro (Africa's highest peak) on the way.



MEALS:

- + Breakfast
- + Lunch
- + Dinner

DAY 24 | BAGAMOYO TO DAR ES SALAAM

Today we're hitting the road south to Dar es Salaam, which is hot, humid and full of high rises, colourful markets and Arab-influenced architecture. Tonight we'll set up camp on the beach (OMG). Feel that balmy sea breeze yet?



MEALS:

- + Breakfast
- + Lunch
- + Dinner

DAY 25 | DAR ES SALAAM TO ZANZIBAR

Hop on the ferry – we've got a beautiful palm-fringed island to get to! Fact: Zanzibar was once a major trading centre of spices. Did we mention this place has heaps of amazing optionals? We're talking spice tours, visits to the Old Fort and more. 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 26 | ZANZIBAR

After breakfast, why not head out on foot to explore Stone Town? You're sure to find a whole bunch of souvenirs here. Wanna get aquatic? Then an optional snorkelling or scuba diving session has your name on it.



MEALS:

- + Breakfast



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- + Spice tour
- + Scuba diving
- + Dhow snorkelling safari
- + Massage
- + Sunset cruise

DAY 27 | ZANZIBAR

If it's white sand, sparkling sea and hot sun you're after, you've come to the right place! Later, indulge in some de-LISH seafood or simply relax beneath a coconut palm with a cocktail and a good book. #Bliss



MEALS:

+ Breakfast



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- + Spice tour
- + Scuba diving
- + Dhow snorkelling safari
- + Massage
- + Sunset cruise

DAY 28 | ZANZIBAR TO DAR ES SALAAM

Noooooo – after one last breakfast as a group, it's time to jump on the ferry back to Dar es Salaam. Our trip ends here. Facebook friends, anyone?



MEALS:

+ Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

+ Ferry to Dar Es Salaam

Meals

Your included meals are detailed in the 'More Inclusions' 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 purchasing, 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 will make every effort to cater to your specific needs, as long as you advise your travel agent or Topdeck Trip Consultant when you book. Please be aware that it may not be possible to cater for every single dietary requirement, but we will always try our best to arrange it.

Topdeck Travel App

Our travel app is **AVAILABLE TO DOWNLOAD BEFORE YOU TRAVEL**. With a range of cool features including a Currency Converter, Budget Planner, Check-In tool and Social Timeline (so your next #TravelEnvy post is never too far away) you can plan your trip like a pro.

Think of it like your very own Topdeck Trip Leader, always on call with the latest info, weather, maps and city guides to give you the trip of a lifetime, all in the palm of your hand.

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Passenger safety

One of the best parts of travelling is experiencing the nightlife and entertainment each city has to offer. However, amidst the fun and excitement, it's important to be aware of your surroundings and personal safety as well. Before you hit the road with us, be sure to familiarise yourself with the following safety information.

When you're on a night out, 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 details so you can find your way back to your fellow Topdeckers if you become separated. It's also a good idea to get your Topdeck 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.

OTHER INFORMATION



THAT'S IT!