

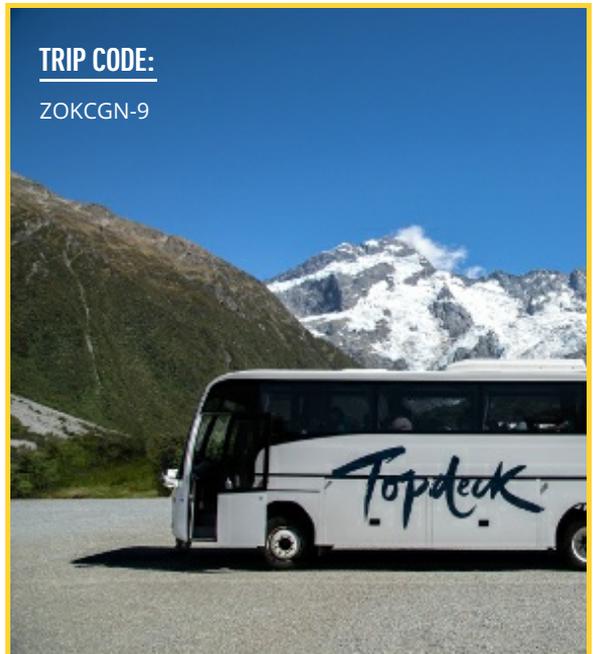
# Topdeck

## GORILLA ENCOUNTER



TRIP CODE:

ZOKCGN-9



## Topdecker, MEET AFRICA

Go all-out Tarzan on this unbelievable Gorilla Encounter expedition, packed with more action than you can poke a banana leaf at. This short African safari starts and ends in Nairobi, with an optional jungle trek in neighbouring Uganda. Get up close and personal with a family of wild mountain gorillas, track chimpanzees in Kyambura Gorge and check out the fabulous flamingos at Lake Nakuru. With so many memorable animal encounters, you'll be giving David Attenborough a run for his money.

### 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

## HI, AND THANKS FOR CHOOSING TO HOLIDAY WITH TOPDECK!

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)

### 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)

## YOUR TRIP WILL START

### PICK UP:

Nairobi  
Africa

## YOUR TRIP WILL FINISH

### DROP OFF:

Nairobi  
Africa

## *Trip currencies*

- + Kenya - KES
- + Uganda - UGX

# 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 PARK

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 PARK

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:

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

## 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:

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

## 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, where our Gorilla Encounter trip will wrap up. Make sure you swap numbers – you'll want to relive the amazing experiences you've shared time and time again! #gorillalife



### MEALS:

- + Breakfast

## *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.

[GET IT FOR IPHONE](#)

[GET IT FOR ANDROID](#)



## *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!**