

# Topdeck

## KENYA & TANZANIA ADVENTURE



TRIP CODE:  
ZOKCND-9



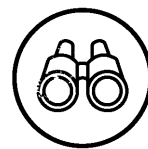
### TOPDECKER, meet Non-Commissionable

Picture this: venturing through the vast plains of Tanzania's mighty National Parks, spotting wildlife you'd otherwise only see in guidebooks. Sound too good to be true? Trust us, this once-in-a-lifetime Kenya & Tanzania Adventure is oh-so-real. On this trip you'll experience the history and culture of two of Africa's most intriguing regions before stretching out on the pristine beaches of postcard-worthy Zanzibar. Now that's what we call an adventure!

### WORTH NOTING...

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

### WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



Explorer



Nights



Download app



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 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 ITINERARY



AWESOME  
TRIP  
LEADER



DRIVER

## DAY 1 | NAIROBI, KENYA TO MAASAI MARA NATIONAL RESERVE

Welcome to Nairobi! Pro tip: try to arrive the day before the trip's scheduled departure date in order to relax (and combat any jet lag). That way, you can join us for our pre-departure meeting. On day one, we'll kick-start our adventure by travelling to 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:

- Lunch
- Dinner



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- Visit Maasai Mara National Reserve

## DAY 2 | MAASAI MARA NATIONAL RESERVE

Yes! 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 3 | 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
- Dinner

## DAY 4 | 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 seven). But first: anyone for an optional camel ride?



### MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Dinner



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- Maasai village walk



### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Camel ride

## DAY 5 | 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 6 | 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 7 | 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 four, we'll visit a Maasai village this afternoon.



### MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Dinner



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- Visit Ngorongoro Crater

## DAY 8 | 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 9 | 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 10 | 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 11 | 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

## DAY 12 | 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

## DAY 13 | ZANZIBAR TO DAR ES SALAAM

Noooooooo – 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 '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!**