

Topdeck

SOUTH EAST ADVENTURE 24

DAY



TRIP CODE:

ZOKCNL-9

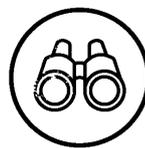
TOPDECKER, meet Non-Commissionable

Safari is a Swahili word meaning 'journey' – and this will be a journey you'll never forget! Mingle with the Maasai Mara, practise your selfie on safari in Serengeti National Park, spend your days horizontal on the island of Zanzibar and sip sundowners at majestic Victoria Falls. Guaranteed to fulfil all your African safari dreams, this trip through Kenya, Tanzania, Malawi and Zambia will be one to write home about. Seriously.

WORTH NOTING...

A Sector trip is part of a larger journey, meaning your new friends might continue on or after you leave, or you might be joining a trip already in progress.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



Explorer



Nights



Android/iPhone
app download
info



This is a sector
trip.

Hi, and thanks for choosing to holiday with Topdeck

You can rest assured that we'll pull out all the stops to make your trip unforgettable.

Now it's time to get excited about your holiday...

ABOUT YOUR TRIP NOTES

These Trip Notes contain everything you need to know before your trip departs – including where to meet and what to bring. We recommend that you read these notes thoroughly so you know what to expect on your trip of a lifetime. Also, you can easily download and print this document off so you can bring it with you when you travel.

Please bear in mind that some points should be taken as a guide only – after all, everyone's different! For example, daily spending money and clothing lists can vary from one person to the next, so don't be alarmed if you don't expect to spend (or even wear) so much!

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 Maasai Mara National Reserve
- + Maasai village walk
- + Visit Serengeti National Park and Ngorongoro Crater
- + Visit Zanzibar
- + Visit Lake Malawi
- + Visit Mosi-oa-Tunya National Park (Victoria Falls)

MORE INCLUSIONS

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

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:	 INCLUDED TODAY:	 OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:
+ Breakfast	+ Maasai village walk	+ Camel ride
+ Lunch		
+ Dinner		

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:	 INCLUDED TODAY:
+ Breakfast	+ Visit Serengeti National Park
+ Lunch	
+ Dinner	

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:	 INCLUDED TODAY:
+ Breakfast	+ Visit Serengeti National Park and Ngorongoro Crater
+ Lunch	
+ Dinner	

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:	 INCLUDED TODAY:
+ Breakfast	+ Visit Ngorongoro Crater
+ Lunch	
+ Dinner	

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
- + Sunset cruise

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
- + Sunset cruise

DAY 13 | ZANZIBAR TO DAR ES SALAAM

It's our final day in paradise! Soak up your tears with a bountiful breakfast and send your last few Snapchats before ferrying back to Dar es Salaam.



MEALS:

- + Breakfast
- + Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

- + Ferry to Dar Es Salaam

DAY 14 | DAR ES SALAAM 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 15 | MIKUMI NATIONAL PARK TO IRINGA

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 Ghau 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 16 | IRINGA TO LAKE CHITIMBA BEACH, MALAWI

After our last night in Tanzania, we'll head through lush mountain passes, rich grazing land and both banana and tea plantations on the way to Songwe, the border post into Malawi. For the next two nights we'll stay at the Chitimba Beach campsite.



MEALS:

- + Breakfast
- + Lunch
- + Dinner

DAY 17 | 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 18 | CHITIMBA BEACH TO KANDE 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 Kande Beach – our home for the next two nights.



MEALS:

- + Breakfast
- + Lunch
- + Dinner

DAY 19 | 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 20 | KANDE BEACH TO CHIPATA, ZAMBIA

Chipata is a colourful town with a number of fruit and vegetable markets – and a handful of ornate mosques, thanks to its large Indian community. If time allows, we'll make a stop in town before arriving at our campsite.



MEALS:

- + Breakfast
- + Lunch
- + Dinner

DAY 21 | CHIPATA TO LUSAKA

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:

- + Breakfast
- + Lunch
- + Dinner

DAY 22 | LUSAKA TO LIVINGSTONE

Next up: 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').



MEALS:

- + Breakfast
- + Lunch



INCLUDED TODAY:

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



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- + Victoria Falls bungy jump
- + Chief Mukumi Village tour
- + Gorge Swing
- + Zambezi jetboating and cable car
- + Half-day canoe safari
- + Zambezi sunset cruise
- + Whitewater rafting
- + Fishing

DAY 23 | LIVINGSTONE

This is Africa's adventure capital, so get out there and make the most of it! We've got optional whitewater rafting, gorge swinging and even bungee jumping to fulfil all of your adventure needs. If you want to take it easy, you could go fishing or take a sunset cruise on the Zambezi (both optional).



MEALS:

+ Breakfast



OPTIONAL

ACTIVITIES:

- + Victoria Falls bungee jump
- + Chief Mukumi Village tour
- + Gorge Swing
- + Zambezi jetboating and cable car
- + Half-day canoe safari
- + Zambezi sunset cruise
- + Whitewater rafting
- + Fishing

DAY 24 | LIVINGSTONE

Noooo! The trip ends here. Dig into breakfast and make the most of those #views while you still can!



MEALS:

+ Breakfast

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.

TIPPING

NO TIP NECESSARY

Your Topdeck Trip Leaders and Drivers never expect tips, and they won't ask for any either. We also know how much tipping can cost you. So go ahead – spoil yourself with the money you save traveling with us (just don't forget Mum's souvenir).

TOPDECK TRAVEL APP

Our app is available to download before you travel. With a range of cool features including a currency converter, budget planner, check-in tool and group chat, it'll help you plan your trip like a pro. Think of it as your very own Topdeck Trip Leader in the palm of your hand.

TRIP GROUP CHAT

Connect with your fellow Topdeckers before you depart and begin your magical friendship in the flash of a winking face emoji.

ITINERARY VIEWER

Get the lowdown on where you'll be going and what activities you'll be doing on each day of your trip with this handy little tool.

CHECK-IN

Plug in all your vital deets and we'll keep them safe for when you really need them. Making your life easier, one swipe at a time.

BUDGET TRACKER

Keep an eye on your holiday spending, leaving you with more FUN-ds to play with. Think: elaborate Spanish feasts (not questionable supermarket sandwiches).

MAPS

Navigate your way to meeting points and lesser-known local gems using pins dropped by your Trip Leader, seek out your own bucket list sites and take to the streets like a pro.

Once the trip is over, you'll need the app to give us feedback about your trip experience. We love to hear what you thought about your trip, as it helps to give us an idea of the things we're doing well and the things we could be doing better.

PLEASE NOTE: The Topdeck Travel App should only be downloaded once you have booked your trip. You will not be able to log in unless you have a Topdeck booking reference number.

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PASSENGER SAFETY

NIGHTS OUT

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.

RESPECTING FELLOW PASSENGERS

Here at Topdeck, we're all about inclusivity. We want to make sure that everyone has a great time on our trips, and that everyone feels like they're part of one happy Topdeck family.

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

DRUG USE

Topdeck has a strict zero-tolerance drug policy. Passengers 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. 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 could you risk getting in trouble with the local police, but our Driver will also be held responsible if drugs are found on the Topdeck coach. Trust us, you wouldn'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 again.

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 of 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 (trust us).

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 holiday AND have 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 hotel 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!

OTHER INFORMATION

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.

World Nomads provides comprehensive travel insurance for people from over 140 countries. For more information, visit www.topdeck.travel/travel-insurance.

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 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.

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.

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!