

# Topdeck

## 23 DAY KRUGER, VICTORIA FALLS & ZANZIBAR 2019-20



TRIP CODE:

ZOKIPD-9

## Topdecker, MEET AFRICA

Isn't it nothing like an African safari. And an African safari that ticks off heavyweight destinations like Kruger, Victoria Falls and Zanzibar? Well, that's the ultimate. Only in your wildest dreams could you imagine getting up close to some of the world's most spectacular animals, lazing about on postcard-worthy beaches and feeling the spray of the powerful Victoria Falls. But on this trip, it's 100% the real deal. Pack your bags for the adventure of a lifetime!

### 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)

- + Shangaan cultural evening
- + Visit Kruger National Park
- + Visit Matobo National Park
- + Visit Mosi
- + Oa
- + Tunya National Park (Victoria Falls)
- + Visit South Luangwa National Park
- + Visit Lake Malawi
- + Visit Zanzibar

### MORE INCLUSIONS

- + Shangaan cultural evening
- + Kruger National Park game drive
- + Half day Matobo National Park game drive and wilderness walk
- + 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

## YOUR TRIP WILL START

### PICK UP:

Pretoria  
Africa

## YOUR TRIP WILL FINISH

### DROP OFF:

Dar es Salaam  
Africa

## *Trip currencies*

- + South Africa - ZAR
- + Zimbabwe - BWP
- + Zambia - ZMW
- + Malawi - MWK
- + Tanzania - TZS

# Your Itinerary



## DAY 1 | PRETORIA, SOUTH AFRICA TO HAZYVIEW

Touch down in Pretoria, meet your new Topdecker BFFs and get excited for the adventure ahead! Starting out early, we'll hit the road in style (and by style, we mean fully equipped safari truck) to Hazyview, where a cultural Shangaan dance show awaits. Kruger is South Africa's premier national park – and, in connection with parks in adjoining Mozambique and Botswana, it covers a whopping 24,000 square kilometres of land used for the protection of African wildlife. Wowee.



### MEALS:

+ Dinner



### INCLUDED TODAY:

+ Shangaan cultural evening

## DAY 2 | HAZYVIEW

Get your camera at the ready! Today we've got a full day's game drive in store, so keep your eyes peeled for the Big Five (lions, elephants, buffaloes, rhinos and leopards). Want more? Well, you could be lucky enough to see giraffes, hippos and zebras, too! Nothing will prepare you for the first time you spot these incredible creatures in the wild. Expect goosebumps, and lots of them. If you want, you can even opt in to do a game drive after dark tonight.



### MEALS:

+ Breakfast  
+ Lunch  
+ Dinner



### INCLUDED TODAY:

+ Kruger National Park game drive



### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

+ Kruger National Park night game drive

## DAY 3 | HAZYVIEW TO TSHIPISE

After leaving Kruger we'll shimmy north and spend the night near the Limpopo River in Tshipise.



### MEALS:

+ Breakfast  
+ Lunch  
+ Dinner

## DAY 4 | TSHIPISE TO BULAWAYO, ZIMBABWE

When we've got the formalities over with at the border post, we'll rock and roll into Zimbabwe and make a beeline for Matobo National Park, near Bulawayo. This place is home to a wide variety of animals, including black and white rhinoceroses, zebras, wildebeest and giraffes.



### MEALS:

+ Breakfast  
+ Lunch  
+ Dinner

## DAY 5 | BULAWAYO

The wind-sculpted Matobo Hills are the site of numerous Bushman paintings, so it's no surprise this area holds a special cultural and spiritual importance to the indigenous people. Keep an eye out for beasts, 'cos today we've got a half-day game drive in store – or, if you fancy it, you could opt in to extend the experience with a full-day upgrade.



### MEALS:

- + Breakfast
- + Lunch
- + Dinner



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- + Half day Matobo National Park game drive and wilderness walk



### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- + Full-day Matobo National Park game drive upgrade

## DAY 6 | BULAWAYO TO LIVINGSTONE, ZAMBIA

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



### INCLUDED TODAY:

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



### 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 7 | 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 8 | LIVINGSTONE

Of course, there's more to Livingstone than hair-raising activities – which is why you have another day to check out the markets and museum, visit a nearby village, or simply relax on the serene campsite deck and watch the Zambezi River flow rapidly to the Falls.



### 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 9 | LIVINGSTONE 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 10 | 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 11 | SOUTH LUANGWA

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 12 | SOUTH LUANGWA TO KANDE BEACH

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 13 | 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 14 | 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 15 | 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 16 | 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 17 | IRINGATO 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 18 | 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 19 | 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 20 | 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
- + Sunset cruise

## DAY 21 | 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
- + Sunset cruise

## DAY 22 | 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
- + Visit Mnemba Island
- + Dhow snorkelling safari
- + Massage
- + Sunset cruise

## DAY 23 | ZANZIBAR TO DAR ES SALAAM

Bye bye, Zanzibar! We're jumping on the ferry back to vibrant Dar es Salaam, where this trip comes to a close. See you on the flipside!



### 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!**