

ACACIA AFRICA

FOR ALL 2008
DEPARTURES

CAPE TOWN TO KENYA – TOUR DOSSIER

Tour Code CTK41

CAPE TOWN – NAIROBI

41 DAYS

Tour Departure – **08:00**

Pre-departure Meeting – **18:00 day prior to departure**

HIGHLIGHTS

Cape Flats Township Tour
Fish River Canyon
Sossusvlei Sand Dunes
Namib Naukluft Park
Swakopmund
Cape Cross Seal Colony
Spitzkoppe
Etosha National Park
Windhoek
Kalahari Bushman Walk
Okavango Delta
Chobe National Park
Victoria Falls - Livingstone
Lusaka
Lake Malawi Beaches
Dar es Salaam
Zanzibar
Serengeti National Park
Olduvai Gorge
Ngorongoro Crater
Snake Park
Masai Village Walk
Great Rift Valley
Masai Mara Game Reserve
Nairobi

BOOKING INFORMATION

When you make a confirmed booking for your tour you will be sent pre-departure information and related documents. Once you have paid in full you will receive a Travel Voucher giving details of your joining hotel. Cape Town and Nairobi are well served by a variety of airlines. Your travel agent can advise on flights to/ from the start and finish of your tour.

JOINING INFORMATION

This tour starts in Cape Town and ends in Nairobi. The **pre-departure meeting is held at 18:00** in Cape Town on the evening prior to day 1. **The tour departs at 08:00 on day 1 and ends in Nairobi at the end of day 41.** We recommend you book accommodation for that night in Nairobi as travel delays may interfere with evening flight times.

INTENDED ITINERARY

Whilst it is our intention to adhere to the route described below, there is a certain amount of flexibility built into the tour and on occasion it may be necessary or desirable to make alterations to the published itinerary. Please therefore treat the following as a guide only.

The vehicle used for this tour is a fully-equipped safari truck, except for the visits to some of the national parks when we may use smaller more suitable vehicles (typically, 4x4 or safari vans).

From Table Mountain to Mt Kilimanjaro, from giant sand dunes in ancient deserts to sun-kissed beaches on tropical Zanzibar, from thundering Victoria Falls to the serenity of the Chobe River, from the majesty of the Ngorongoro crater to the vast Serengeti plains – this comprehensive tour will leave you with unforgettable memories.

Duration: 41 Days

Countries: South Africa, Namibia, Botswana, Zambia, Malawi, Tanzania, Kenya

DAY 1

Cape Town – Western Cape - Gariep River

Our overland safari begins in cosmopolitan Cape Town, overlooked by Table Mountain and bordered by the Atlantic Ocean, one of the world's most picturesque cities. Before we leave the city we take a tour of the Cape Flats – Cape Town's famous townships, visiting some of the local people and community projects in the area. The townships both illustrate South Africa's tumultuous history and its hope for the future and make a fascinating visit. From here we head north through the Cape provinces that gradually turn drier and rockier as we head towards the Namibian border. We set up camp tonight at Gariep (Orange) River. There's time tonight to settle into camp life, properly meet the group and enjoy our first night under the African sky.

DAY 2 - 5

Fish River Canyon – Namib Naukluft Park

Entering Namibia we admire the awesome beauty of the Fish River Canyon. One of the natural wonders of Africa, some 500m deep and over 160km long, this is the second largest canyon in the world and again, there are plenty of opportunities for keen photographers as we spend time around this area and visit the canyon's infamous sharp river bend known as 'Hell's Corner.'

EXTENDING YOUR STAY

If time allows we recommend you take a few extra days in Cape Town before the tour starts to enjoy the area more fully. We can also assist with any accommodation in Nairobi post tour, on a direct pay basis. See **Table 1.4** for extra accommodation costs.

FREE PRE-TOUR TRANSFER AND ACCOMMODATION!

You are welcome to take advantage of our pre-tour offer: Enjoy a free airport transfer the day before departure & one night free accommodation (dorm share basis) at the departure hostel.

Please note this is not automatically booked! Make sure you tell us at least eight weeks before departure that you wish to take advantage of the offer and give us your flight arrival details. Not doing so may mean accommodation or transfers are not available or you have to pay standard prices.

GAME PARK VISITS

In order to maximise the quality of game driving and to comply with local authority rulings, some of our National Park visits and game viewing is carried out using services provided by local African ground handlers. While enhancing our experience it also allows us opportunity to contribute at a 'grassroots' level to local economies, from which local people benefit. These local services are included in the Local Payment.

WHAT TO BRING

Please try to keep your luggage to a minimum, bearing in mind that most airlines impose a 20kg limit. A backpack and day pack is ideal (hard cases not permitted). You will need to bring a combination of lightweight clothing, warm items for the evenings, and long shirts and pants for protection against mosquitoes in malarial areas. You also need a sleeping bag. Please try to avoid bringing unnecessary valuables. We suggest you make use of the pre tour hostel/hotel's safe and once on tour there is a truck 'safe' you are welcome to use for storing cash, passports and air tickets. A full 'What to Bring' list is included in our **pre-departure booklet**, sent out when you book this tour, but we especially recommend you bring a head torch and a money belt or pouch to wear beneath your clothing.

VACCINATIONS/HEALTH

Refer to **Table 1.2** at the end of this document. Please treat this table as a guide only, and for a full list of health requirements and vaccinations consult your GP or medical clinic at least six weeks prior to departure.

After a night near the canyon we continue north until we reach the Namib Naukluft Park, containing the world's oldest desert and the highest sand dunes in the world. Some of Sesriem and Sossusvlei's dunes are over 300m high and we head out early to appreciate the sunrise across this magnificent landscape. There is time to climb a dune before we head deeper in the park and take nature walks across the salt pans and flat valley floors amidst the dunes. Bring your camera! The shifting colours of the sand throughout the day offer brilliant photographic opportunities.

DAY 6 - 7

Swakopmund

Hitting the coast we head north past picturesque fishing villages until we reach the old colonial town of Swakopmund, Namibia's main seaside resort, sandwiched neatly between the desert and the ocean. This is a delightful coastal oasis and a wonderful place to enjoy some unique adventure desert based activities. Try 'quad biking, sand boarding, and skydiving (weather permitting) or else take a coastal walk and indulge in Swakopmund's welcoming café culture at your leisure.

DAY 8 - 11

Cape Cross Seal Colony – Spitzkoppe
– Etosha National Park – Windhoek

We leave Swakopmund and head north. We stop to visit the impressive Cape Cross Seal Colony, home to some 80,000 seals and the place where in the year 1486, the Portuguese mariner Diego Cão first set foot on the coast of southwest Africa. Heading inland we reach beautiful Damaraland and stop at Spitzkoppe to admire ancient bushman paintings still visible on the area's peculiar rock formations. This is also the area where the desert dwelling Himba tribes live and we stop to see these hardy people, spending time in a Himba village as we travel through the area.

Journeying north we reach Etosha National Park, a vast reserve surrounding a central salt depression or 'pan.' The pan is seasonally full of water but specially managed year-round waterholes here sustain some 114 mammal and 340 bird species. We spend two nights here and camp near a floodlit waterhole that offers exciting night viewing. After two nights here we return south to the capital Windhoek, a city steeped in German atmosphere, where, back in civilisation, you may choose to enjoy a flagon of ale at one of the local taverns.

DAY 12 – 17

Ghanzi – Okavango Delta – Chobe National Park

Leaving Namibia we travel west into the Kalahari and cross into southern Botswana. We stop for a night in Ghanzi and take a Bushman Walk to learn how its indigenous people live. From here we head north to Maun and prepare for our journey into the Okavango Delta. This natural wetland system spreading over some 1,600,000ha of northern Botswana is a broad inland delta created by the Okavango River and is the only of its kind in the world. We explore its channels and islands on foot and in mokoro (dugout canoe) in search of hippo, crocodile and a variety of birds amongst the giant lily pads. We camp for a night on a remote river island amidst the nocturnal sounds of the African bush - an unforgettable wilderness experience!

After our return to Maun we make our way to Chobe National Park, situated in the northern corner of Botswana. The park is home to some of the largest elephant populations in Africa as well as lion and abundant birdlife, including the famous African fish eagle. Rising early

INSURANCE

It is a booking condition of Acacia that you have full travel insurance valid for the duration of your tour to cover you for medical emergency and repatriation to your home country. Your tour leader will ask you for a copy of this insurance at the pre-departure meeting. It is also important that you leave a copy of your insurance with the person nominated as your emergency contact. Speak to your agent or Acacia about comprehensive travel insurance.

VISA INFORMATION

For your visa requirements please refer to **Table 1.1** at the end of this document. Confirm with your agent that these requirements are still current at your own travel date. The Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO) offers free up to date travel info: www.fco.gov.uk. For other information and advice prior to your tour we recommend you speak to your agent or Acacia.

we take a game drive, we rest during in the heat of the day and in the late afternoon, we take a cruise on the Chobe River – a great opportunity to see hippo in the shallows and perhaps watch elephant come to the river to bath and drink.

DAY 18 – 22

Livingstone – Victoria Falls

Leaving Chobe, we cross the Luangwa River, enter Zambia and drive to Livingstone near the mighty Victoria Falls. We set up camp at the Waterfront campsite on the banks of the Zambezi. Free time is given here, so you can enjoy some of the wide range of optional activities available. These usually include white water rafting, bungee jumping, abseiling, gorge swinging, canoeing, elephant and horse riding, scenic flights and river cruises so you can plan your time accordingly. Don't forget a visit to the Victoria Falls themselves. At various times of year the spray can be seen from up to 20 or 30 kilometres away, hence the local name Mosi au Tunya – the 'Smoke that Thunders'.

DAY 23 - 28

Lusaka - Malawi

From Livingstone, we continue our journey through Lusaka to Malawi - the 'warm heart' of Africa. Our first stop is in the forested mountains before descending to Lake Malawi that covers almost a fifth of the country providing a source of livelihood for many of the Malawi people. Fishermen, fish traders, canoe and net makers all ply their trade, and are a common sight along our route. We enjoy a few days on the wonderfully peaceful beaches where there is a full range of optional water sports on offer in the warm, clear and fresh waters of Lake Malawi. You can try horse-riding in the forests around Kande Beach, or even ride bareback and swim with horses in the lake. There is the opportunity for a local village walk – time to meet some of the local people, generally known as amongst the friendliest in Africa to gain an insight into their way of life.

DAY 29 - 34

Dar es Salaam - Zanzibar

Leaving Malawi we climb into the hills and cross into Tanzania, continuing northeast towards the port city of Dar es Salaam. On the way we pass through the small Mikumi National Park and with luck, may spot forest elephant or giraffe feeding near the side of the road. 'Dar' is Tanzania's main port and a hub of commerce and industry. We set up camp on the beach just outside the city, browse the curio markets and prepare for our trip to Zanzibar.

Zanzibar ('the 'Spice Island') is an island of sandy, palm fringed beaches, romantic winding cobbled alleys and lush tropical forests. It also has an intriguing past, having once been a major trading centre of spices and slaves to Arabia as well as a base for many of the 19th century explorers of Africa, such as Speke, Burton and Livingstone. Our time here is not structured so you can choose what you do. Your tour leader will help advise on activities available and help book your accommodation before arrival. Explore the markets and alleyways of Stone Town, take the popular Spice Tour or soak up the island vibe, relax, snorkel and dive the reefs on the northern beaches.

DAY 35 - 37

River Camp - Arusha

Once back on the African mainland, we travel north. On the way, if the weather is clear, we should gain a view of the magnificent snow-capped Mount Kilimanjaro, Africa's highest peak at 5895m. We may take a night beside the scenic Pangani river before arriving in Arusha, a city of markets, vehicles and Masai, nestling in the shadow of the

our camp outside Arusha on the Masai plains. Here, you could take a walk or camel ride to a local Masai village, visit the local Snake Park or enjoy Tanzanian hospitality at the lively camp bar

DAY 38 - 40

Serengeti National Park – Olduvai Gorge – Ngorongoro Crater

From here we begin our two night/three day excursion by 4x4 to the Serengeti National Park and the Ngorongoro Crater. The wide plains of the Serengeti make perhaps one of the most evocative images of Africa. The Serengeti is flatter and larger than the Mara, and game viewing here is fantastic, while camping out in an unfenced campsite where lion and hyena roam nearby makes for an unforgettable experience. We leave the Serengeti to head east, via Olduvai Gorge, to the Ngorongoro Crater. We spend the night camping near the rim. The crater is Africa's largest intact caldera and a World Heritage Site, famous for its staggering concentration of African animals. From the rim we enjoy the sweeping view of the crater floor some 700m below and the following morning, descend into the crater for unrivalled game drives.

DAY 41

Nairobi

After returning to Arusha, we make our way across the Masai Steppe and cross the border into Kenya. Once formalities are complete we drive the last afternoon drive to Kenya's burgeoning capital, Nairobi, where our tour ends.

NB For the sake of practicality, meals in the Livingstone/Victoria Falls area are restricted to breakfasts. This allows you to take on half day or full day activities (some of which include lunch) without having to be back with the group at mealtimes. The Waterfront camp has a beautiful restaurant, overlooking the Zambezi which offers a good selection of reasonably priced meals and snacks throughout the day (we suggest you allow US\$15 per day). Relax and enjoy these few days at your own leisure.



WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU!

THE OVERLANDING EXPERIENCE

Travelling overland is great fun, but it can also be challenging! This is a participation tour and your help will be needed in setting up the camp each night and assisting (usually on a rota basis) with the various day to day campsite duties, such as shopping, cooking and keeping the truck and camp tidy. But don't worry it's not all hard work and it's a great way to meet the local people and get to know your fellow travellers. Your contribution benefits the success of the tour - most people find the greater their involvement, the greater their enjoyment of the whole overlanding experience.

Although overlanding can be testing at times, most people find that the diversity of the African landscape, the fascinating wildlife and the communities we pass on our way, make a little rough travel and some long driving days worthwhile. Africa is an adventure destination and travelling here is not always predictable so be prepared to "expect the unexpected" in difficulties or delays which might come our way! Come with a sense of adventure and a flexible attitude and you will be sure to enjoy your Acacia overland tour across this amazing continent.

MONEY MATTERS

PERSONAL EXPENSES

Naturally you will require extra money for your own personal spending on the tour, for snacks, drinks, souvenirs, tips and internet cafes etc. Everybody has different spending habits but as a guideline we suggest you budget US\$15-25 per day. Also keep US\$ cash for relevant airport tax and visas obtained en route (see **Table 1.1**, meals & accommodation on Zanzibar, optional activities (see **Table 1.3**) and any additional accommodation before or after your tour (see **Table 1.4**).

Spending money is best carried as cash in US dollars, Sterling or Euros which can be changed into the local currency in each country. Outside of South Africa the most useful currency is US dollars in clean, post-2000 edition notes.

Currencies are as follows: South Africa – Rand; Namibia – Namibian Dollar; Botswana – Pula; Zambia – Zambian Kwacha; Malawi – Malawian Kwacha; Tanzania - Tanzanian Shilling; Kenya – Kenyan Shilling.

The Namibian dollar is fixed with the Rand and Rand can be used in Namibia.

Travellers cheques can be difficult to cash but make suitable emergency funds.

Credit cards are useful for paying for optional activities in Livingstone and Swakopmund and may be used in some major centres for cash advances but please do not rely on them as the charges for using cards are high by Western standards.

ATM machines are found in most large centres. Suitable for use in Cape Town but can be unreliable elsewhere.

It is recommended to bring your money in a mixture of ways and your tour leader can best advise on what to use where.

LOCAL PAYMENT

The Local Payment (LP) set out in your brochure is to be paid to your tour leader at the pre-departure meeting. The LP fund is administered by the tour leader in conjunction with the group and covers all game drives using our own vehicle, campsite fees and meals prepared at the truck (usually three per day). You can choose to either pay the Basic Local Payment and pay for your excursions along the way, or pay for everything up front in the Inclusive Local Payment. Payment must be made in **US\$ cash in clean, post-2000 edition notes**. Traveller's cheques and credit cards are **not** accepted. The LP amounts set out in the brochure are estimates of local costs at the time of printing. It is subject to inflation, exchange rate changes and local price rises. These may vary from the amounts set out and on the rare occasion where there is a shortfall, passengers will be asked to contribute further. Conversely, where there is a surplus of LP funds at the end of the tour, it will be refunded equally amongst all passengers.

ACACIA CONTACT INFORMATION

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TABLE 1.1 – Visa Requirements

Nationality	UK	AUS	NZ	USA	CAN	BEL	IRE	NED	DEN	ITA	GER	AUT	SWE	FIN	NOR	MEX	KOR
South Africa	No	Yes	No														
Namibia	No	Yes	Yes														
Botswana	No	Yes															
Zambia	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes									
Malawi	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes										
Tanzania	Yes																
Kenya	Yes																

NB The above is a guide only. Please check all visa requirements at least one month in advance of travel. Most nationalities do not need to obtain any of the above visas in advance. They are available at the border entry points and payable in US\$ cash.

TABLE 1.2 - Vaccinations and Health

Country	Tetanus	Diphtheria	Polio	Hepatitis A	Hepatitis B	Typhoid	Meningitis	Rabies	Yellow Fever	Malaria
S. Africa	R	R	R	R	-	R	-	-	*	R
Namibia	R	R	R	R	-	R	-	R	*	R
Botswana	R	R	R	R	-	R	-	R	*	R
Zambia	R	R	R	R	R	R	-	R	R	R
Malawi	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
Tanzania	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
Kenya	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R*	R

C = Compulsory, **R** = Recommended, * = If travelling from infected countries a certificate of proof may be required.

NB To be used as a guide only. Please see your GP or travel clinic for up-to-date medical advice.

TABLE 1.3 - Optional Activities – approximate prices; subject to change & availability

Activity	Price (US\$)	Activity	Price (US\$)
Swakopmund		Crocodile Farm	\$20
Quad Biking	\$40-\$68	Zambezi Sunset Cruise	\$45
Sand Boarding	\$35-\$45	Malawi	
Deep Sea Fishing	\$95	Scuba Diving	\$35
Sky Diving	\$230	Horse Riding	\$30
Livingstone		Zanzibar	
Abseiling/ Gorge Swing x 2	\$35/\$75	Scuba Diving	\$40-\$70
Zambezi Jet Boating & Cable Car	\$90	Snorkelling Day Trip	\$30
Half day/ Full day Canoe Safari	\$90-\$110	Accommodation & Food (per day)	\$25-\$35
Horse Riding/ Elephant Riding	\$60-\$73/ \$140	Spice Tour	\$20
White Water Rafting/ Riverboarding	\$125/ \$150	Tanzania	
Flights over the Falls (various modes)	\$55-95	Serengeti Balloon Ride	\$479
Flying Fox	\$35	Camel Ride	TBA

NB The above costs have been converted into approximate US dollars for convenience. Expect to pay for some optionals in the local currency.

TABLE 1.4 – Optional Pre/Post Tour Accommodation – approximate prices; subject to change & availability

Description	Price (US\$)	Description	Price (ZAR)
Cape Town		Nairobi	
Pre tour accommodation – Twin pp/pn – B&B	R245 - R270	Post tour accommodation – Twin pp/pn – B&B	US\$65
Pre tour accommodation – Single pp/pn – B&B	R350	Post tour accommodation – Single pp/pn – B&B	US\$100

Intended Itinerary Days (distances approximate only)

- Day 1** **Western Cape area**
Highlights: Cape Town Township Tour, Depart Cape Town
Meals: Lunch, Dinner
Distance: 170-200 km
- Day 2** **Gariiep (Orange) River**
Highlights: Gariiep (Orange) River
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Distance: 500 km
- Day 3** **Fish River Canyon**
Highlights: Fish River Canyon
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Distance: 250 km
- Day 4** **Namib Naukluft National Park**
Highlights: Sesriem, Namib Naukluft National Park
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Distance: 550 km
- Day 5** **Namib Naukluft National Park**
Highlights: Sesriem, Namib Naukluft National Park
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- Day 6** **Swakopmund**
Highlights: Swakopmund
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch
Distance: 350 km
- Day 7** **Swakopmund**
Highlights: Swakopmund
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch
- Day 8** **Cape Cross/ Spitzkoppe**
Highlights: Cape Cross, Spitzkoppe
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Distance: 150 km
- Day 9** **Etosha National Park**
Highlights: Etosha National Park, game drives
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Distance: 100 km
- Day 10** **Etosha National Park**
Highlights: Etosha National Park, game drives
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- Day 11** **Windhoek**
Highlights: Etosha National Park, game drive, Windhoek
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch
Distance: 400 km
- Day 12** **Ghanzi**
Highlights: Ghanzi, Bushmans Walk
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Distance: 300 km
- Day 13** **Maun**
Highlights: Maun

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Distance: 300 km

Day 14 **Okavango Delta**
Highlights: Okavango Delta, Mokoro / Walking Safari Wilderness Experience

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 15 **Maun**
Highlights: Okavango Delta, Mokoro ,Maun
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 16 **Kasane**
Highlights: Kasane
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Distance: 650 km

Day 17 **Chobe National Park**
Highlights: Chobe National Park, Morning game drive / afternoon game cruise
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 18 **Livingstone**
Highlights: Waterfront, Livingstone
Meals: Breakfast
Distance: 75 km

Day 19 - 22 **Livingstone**
Highlights: Waterfront, Livingstone, Zambian Victoria Falls visit
Meals: Breakfast

Day 23 **Lusaka**
Highlights: Luangwa River, Lusaka
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Distance: 520 Km

Day 24 **Chipata**
Highlights: Chipata
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Distance: 620 Km

Day 25 **Lilongwe or Livingstonia Beach**
Highlights: Malawi
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Distance: 400 Km

Day 26 **Kande Beach**
Highlights: Kande Beach
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Distance: 200 Km

Day 27 **Kande Beach**
Highlights: Kande Beach
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 28 **Chitimba**
Highlights: Chitimba
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Distance: 240 Km

Day 29 **Iringa**
Highlights: Crossing into Tanzania
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Distance: 500 Km

Day 30 **Dar es Salaam**
Highlights: Indian Ocean coast
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Distance: 550 Km

Day 31 **Dar es Salaam to Zanzibar**
Suggested Highlights: Stone Town, Spice tour, Fish market
Meals: Breakfast

NB. All activities indicated for Zanzibar are optional; the time is your own and you are free to do as you wish. Your tour leader will help you arrange accommodation prior to arrival and advise you of activities available on the island

Day 32&33 **Zanzibar**
Suggested Highlights: Beach at Nungwi, Dolphin swim tour, Prison Island tour, snorkelling, scuba diving.

Day 34 **Zanzibar to Dar es Salaam**
Highlights: Ferry Dar es Salaam
Meals: Dinner

Day 35 **Pangani River Camp**
Highlights: driving north toward northern Tanzania
Meals: Breakfast, lunch, Dinner

Day 36 **Arusha**
Highlights: Arusha, Meserani Snake Park
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Distance: 650 Km

Day 37 **Meserani Snake Park**
Highlights: Arusha, Meserani Snake Park, Masai village walk
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 38 **Serengeti National Park**
Highlights: Serengeti National Park, afternoon game drive
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Distance: 300 Km

Day 39 **Ngorongoro Crater**
Highlights: Serengeti morning game drive, Olduvai Gorge, Ngorongoro Crater
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Distance: 150 Km

Day 40 **Arusha**
Highlights: Ngorongoro Crater morning game drive, Arusha
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Distance: 150 Km

Day 41 **Nairobi**
Highlights: Tanzania border crossing, Nairobi
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch
Distance: 350 Km

Pre-departure information:

Meeting point in Cape Town:	The Backpack
Address:	Cnr Military Rd/New Church St Cape Town
Contact details:	Tel. +27 21 423 5555 Fax +27 21 423 0065
E-mail:	accommodation@backpackers.co.za
Pre-dep. meeting:	18:00 prior to departure day
Tour start time:	08:00 on day 1
Tour end point in Nairobi:	Boulevard Hotel
Address:	Harry Thuku Rd PO Box 42831 Nairobi
Contact details:	Tel. +245 2 337221 / 227567/8/9 Fax +245 2 334071
E-mail:	hotel@hotelboulevardkenya.com
Tour end time:	16:00-18:00 on day 41

Country Information – SOUTH AFRICA

Facts

Capital:	Pretoria (official), Bloemfontein (judicial), and Cape Town (legislative)
Size:	1 219 090 sq km / 470 693 sq miles
Population:	44,344,136 (Sept. 05)
Groups:	African/Black, White (mainly of Afrikaner and British origin), Coloured, Indian/Asian
Languages:	English, Afrikaans, Ndebele, Xhosa, Zulu, Pedi, Sotho, Tswana, Swati, Venda, Tsonga (all 11 are official languages)
Local time:	GMT + 2
Seasons:	Western Cape: warm (September-April), cold and wet (May-August); East coast: humid all year; Northern provinces: wet (September-April), dry (May-August)
Currency:	1 South African Rand = 100 Cents
Telephone:	Country code 27, international access code 09
Electricity:	220 V / 230 V / 250 V / 50 Hz, the plug fits a 15A socket with three round pins

South Africa is a country rich in minerals, with abundant wildlife and spectacular scenery; a land of beauty with a social and political structure that is anything but! A country having three capitals - Pretoria the Administrative, Cape Town the Legislative, and Bloemfontein the Judicial. Having by far the most developed and sophisticated economy on the continent, South Africa is essential to many of the neighbouring countries as an avenue for exports, and a provider of electricity and high tech products. A good network of roads and an abundance of high quality camp sites (as well as beautiful scenery) makes travelling in and around South Africa an easy and very rewarding experience.

Points of Interest

Cape Town

Founded in 1666 as a place where trading ships going round the Cape of Good Hope could stock up, Cape Town today is **South Africa's tourist destination No.1**. It is one of the **most beautiful cities** in the world with plenty of sights and outdoor activities. The natural beauty of the place is defined by mountains (esp. famous

Table Mountain) and sea (and not only one, it is here the Atlantic and the Indian Ocean meet). The '**Mother City**' has also has one of the most diverse populations including descendants from such diverse people as Indonesian, Malay, French, Dutch, British & German settlers, the local Khoisan (Bushman & Hottentot) tribes and the Bantu tribes from the north. It is one of the most tolerant and relaxed cities in Africa.

Places of interest in and around Cape Town:

Table Mountain – Cape Town's trade mark towers 1086 metres above sea level and is accessible by cable car or by several trekking routes (Platteklip Gorge being the most frequented one)

The Castle – Cape Town's oldest remaining building

Bo-Kaap – the old Malay quarter is a predominately Muslim area coined by Malay slaves who were brought in by the Dutch; take a walk among the colourful houses

Victoria & Albert (V&A) Waterfront – this complex of shops, restaurants and bars attracts over 20 million visitors every year; it also has a massive oceanarium where you can dive with sharks and the (still working) port

Robben Island – 11 kilometres from the coast, this World Heritage Site features a former prison of Nelson Mandela where he spent 18 years

Company Gardens – the remains of the original fruit and veg gardens to provide the ships, these gardens now host many interesting museums

Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens – situated at the eastern side of Table Mountain, these gardens contain a wide variety of mostly indigenous flora with the mountain as a backdrop; in summer concerts are held here every Sunday afternoon

Beaches – Cape Town has a great many beaches on both the Atlantic and the Indian Ocean: the 4 beaches at Clifton, Camps Bay and Bloubergstrand on the Atlantic and Muizenberg, Kalk Bay and Fishhoek on the Indian Ocean, to mention just a few

Townships – the townships of Guguleu, Langa and Kayelitsha offer great insights into Cape Town's black communities

Cape Peninsula – a day tour around the Cape Peninsula will lead you to Hout Bay Harbour with its Cape Fur Seal colony on Duiker Island, to Boulders Beach with its jackass penguins and to the Cape Point Nature Reserve where the south-western most point of Africa is to be found

Winelands – the world-renowned wine region around Stellenbosch has some of the oldest and most beautiful wineries in South Africa. Visit the beautiful buildings and sample some excellent wines.

Country Information - NAMIBIA

Facts

Capital:	Windhoek
Size:	824 292 sq km / 318 261 sq miles
Population:	2,030,692 (Sept. 05)
Groups:	Owambo, Kavango, Herero, Damara, Nama, Caprivan, San (Bushmen), Baster, Tswana (80%), Mixed + European (20%)
Languages:	English, Afrikaans, German, Ovambo, Herero, Kwangali, Nama/Damara, Lozi, Tswana
Local time:	GMT + 2
Seasons:	Dry (April-October), short rains (October-December), long rains (January-March)
Currency:	1 Namibian Dollar = 100 Cents also South African Rand
Telephone:	Country code 264 , international access code 00
Electricity:	220 V / 50 Hz, round pins with ground plug

Having the world's oldest desert, the highest sand dunes, and one of the most notorious coasts to shippers (the 'Skeleton Coast'), Namibia is one of the world's newest independent republics. Previously known as South West Africa, Namibia was a German protectorate up until WW1, when it came under the administration of South Africa. The German heritage is still very evident in the architecture and place names (Luderitz, Swakopmund) and in the dress of the Herero tribe womenfolk, who still copy the dress of the German missionaries wives of the 19th Century. The country has large stocks of diamonds, copper, uranium, tin, silver and other minerals, and these, plus the more traditional stock raising and fishing underpin the economy. Namibia appears to the visitor huge and empty. The largely desert-like landscape offers some stunning scenery. The Fish River Canyon in the south, Etosha National Park in the north and the dunes of the Namib-Naukluft desert in the middle are the main points of interest.

Points of Interest

Fish River Canyon

Fish River Canyon is the **largest canyon in Africa** and the second largest in the world (after the Grand Canyon in the USA). It is 161 kilometres long and 27 kilometres wide and its sheer drop is up to 550 metres deep. The vistas from the many view points are spectacular. The actual Fish River does not flow every year, but when it does, it appears suddenly and with force. During the winter months it is reduced to a few pools. Then is the best time to descend into the canyon to hike the strenuous 86 kilometres long **Fish River Canyon Hiking Trail**. Starting at the main northern lookout point, it takes about 5 days to complete and ends in **Ai-Ais**, most famous for its hot springs which contain chloride, fluoride and sulphate and which are about 60° hot.

Etosha National Park

Etosha is one of the biggest game parks in Africa. While the whole Etosha area spans 22,270 sq kilometres, the flat depression within the park, the **Etosha Pan**, is about 5,000 sq kilometres big. No wonder that the local Ovambo people call it Etosha – meaning 'huge white area' or 'place of dry water'. In the dry season, the pan is an inhospitable, lifeless place with the salt crystals reflecting the light and causing mirages. During the rains, however, it changes completely. Birds, especially flamingos, flock to it and the adjacent land starts to bloom. There are 144 mammal species in the park including the **'Big 5'** and game viewing at one of the many **water holes** can easily turn into a biblical scene. You will also find flood-lit water holes near the camps for great **night game viewing**.

Namib-Naukluft Park

Namibia's largest National Park is a whopping 23,000 sq kilometres big which makes it the fourth largest nature conservation area in the world. It lies within the **Namib Desert** which stretches from the Orange River on the southern border with South Africa up north beyond the Kunene River into Angola. The Nama call it quite appropriately Namib – meaning **'vast'**.

Within its borders, the landscape varies greatly from mountains, canyons and deep gorges to desert plains, lagoons and high dunes. The main areas are Sossusvlei, the lagoon at Sandwich harbour, the Namib Desert Park and, further north, the Naukluft Park with the Naukluft Mountains.

Sossusvlei + Sesriem canyon

Sossusvlei is a dusty clay pan overlooked by hundreds of **towering sand dunes** up to 300 metres high. The dunes vary from pale apricot to vivid reds and bright orange. The most famous one is undoubtedly **Dune 45**. It is best to climb it in the early hours and watch the sunrise from the top.

Sesriem canyon is a small canyon which used to be an important **water source** for the early explorers and settlers. They used to lower buckets into the Tsauchab River with six thongs from where the Afrikaans name 'Ses Riem' derives. You can take a walk in the canyon where you will find a variety of bird, insects and lizards.

Swakopmund

Namibia's second biggest town looks like it has been cut out of Germany and pasted into Namibia. The **German architecture** wedged between the desert and the Atlantic sea is a bizarre view and the wild mix of its inhabitants is even more confusing. However, Swakopmund has a relaxed atmosphere with promenades, palm trees and gardens. There is plenty to do here. Walk around town and take a look at the pier, the lighthouse, the former train station, tour the Hansa brewery or visit the Ethnology and Natural History Museum. For **night time entertainment**, head to one of the many bars and restaurants or gamble at the casino.

There is also a large variety of **sports** on offer. You can swim at the Olympic-sized swimming pool or play a round of golf at the golf course where impalas will compete with you for a spot on the green.

Swakopmund has also become **Namibia's adventure capital** and there is an array of activities on offer: sand boarding, quadbiking, camel rides, offroad driving, sky diving and desert horse riding.

Not far from Swakopmund, in the middle of a lunar-like landscape, is the **Goanikontes Oasis** where you can view the very peculiar **welwitschia tree** (*Welwitschia mirabilis*). This ancient plant (some of the specimen are 2,000 years old) is unique to Namibia; it only has two leaves – if one of them dies, the whole tree dies.

Windhoek

Namibia's capital Windhoek (meaning 'windy corner' in Afrikaans) is an interesting **mix of modern city and colonial past**. It lies 1,650 metres above sea level and is Namibia's biggest city with 15,000 inhabitants. The German influence is still visible and German widely spoken.

Worth visiting are the well-known **Christuskirche** (a German Lutheran church), the **Alte Feste** (old fort) which hosts **the State Museum**, and the **Tintenpalast** (ink palace) which is home to the parliament.

If you happen to be there in October or April, you might experience German culture in form of the **Oktoberfest** (beer festival) or, respectively, the **Windhoek Carnival**.

Country Information – BOTSWANA

Facts

Capital:	Gaborone
Size:	585 370 sq km / 363 809 sq miles
Population:	1,815,508 (Sept. 07)
Groups:	Tswana, Kalanga, Basarwa, Kgalagadi, European
Languages:	English, Setswana, Kalanga, Sekgalagadi
Local time:	GMT + 2
Seasons:	Dry (April-August), rainy (November-March)
Currency:	1 Pula (BWP) = 100 Thebe (pula = rain; thebe = raindrops)
Telephone:	Country code 267, international access code 00
Electricity:	230 V / 50 Hz, round pins with ground or rectangular blade plug

Although vast, semi arid and empty, Botswana has prospered since independence and is comparatively well off in relation to its neighbour's - especially those to the north. The economy relies on mining (Botswana supplies de Beers with over 50% of its diamonds), cattle ranching and tourism. Although relations with South Africa have been strained, Botswana is heavily reliant on that country for its rail, air and sea links. The Okavango Delta in the north west of the country is a major attraction, the water levels rising and falling annually with the rivers originating in the Angolan highlands. Perennially short of water, the word for Botswana's currency unit (one of the strongest currencies in Africa) is the same word for rain.

Points of Interest

Okavango Delta Reserve

The 16,000 sq kilometres big Okavango Delta is the **largest inland delta in the world** and known to the locals as 'the river which never finds the sea'. Most of the Okavango River, which originates in the highlands of east-central Angola, terminates here. These natural wetlands are a massive inland system of natural reed filled water channels, lagoons and islands. The delta consists of 4 parts: the Inner Delta, the Eastern Delta, Moremi Game Reserve and the Okavango Panhandle. Most people use Maun as a base for their visit.

The delta is best explored by **mokoro (traditional dug out canoe)** where so-called 'polers' guide you through the labyrinth of channels, standing like gondoliers at the rear of the boat. An alternative is to fly over the reserve for a bird's eye view. The Okavango is a **birder's paradise**, home to huge numbers of waterfowl and raptors, but you also find elephant, zebra, buffalo, wildebeest, giraffe, hippo, crocodile, lion and kudu here.

Chobe National Park

This park, 11,000 sq kilometres in size is located in the north where Botswana meets Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Its main attraction are its 25,000 elephant population – part of a huge 'superpopulation' that exist across the northern belt of Botswana and the north west of neighbouring Zimbabwe. In this area elephant numbers are thought to total 120,000 - the **highest concentration of elephants in the world**. The Chobe River, its floodplain and nearby teak forest marks the heart of the park and its here that animals come to drink and bathe. Besides elephant, you will also come across antelope, buffalo, crocodile, lion, hippo and a number of

birds including the African fish eagle. They are best spotted at the end of the day during **game viewing boat cruises**.

In the southern part of Chobe lies the Savuti region which is particularly good for game watching; ancient **San rock paintings** can also be found here.

Country Information - ZAMBIA

Facts

Capital:	Lusaka
Size:	752 614 sq km / 290 586 sq miles
Population:	11,261,795 (Sept. 05)
Groups:	Native African, European
Languages:	English, Bemba, Kaonda, Lozi, Lunda, Luvale, Mambwe, Nyanja, Ngoni, Tonga, Tumbuka
Local time:	GMT + 2
Seasons:	Warm and rainy (November-April), cool and dry (May-August), hot and dry (September/October)
Currency:	1 Zambian Kwacha = 100 Ngwee
Telephone:	Country code 260 , international access code 00
Electricity:	220 V / 230 V / 50 Hz, round pin attachment plug, round pins with ground or rectangular blade plug

Formerly Northern Rhodesia, Zambia is made up of a highland plateau (approximately 1000 metres above sea level) which rises toward the east and which - in the north, along the border of Zaire - houses enormous reserves of copper, cobalt, coal, zinc and lead, the mining of which is of extreme importance to the economy. Tourism is of increasing importance with the magnificent Victoria Falls on the Zambezi River marking the border with Zimbabwe. The game parks of Zambia, although not so well known as those of Kenya and Tanzania, are large and well stocked with wildlife of all types. The long standing leader Kenneth Kaunda was defeated in elections in 1991, the country's first multi-party elections in 19 years, and today Zambia is one of Africa's newest democracies - although it is struggling to maintain living standards at a time when earnings from its mineral exports are dropping.

Points of Interest

Victoria Falls

'Mosi-oa-Tunya' - the smoke that thunders is what the locals call Victoria Falls, one of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World and a World Heritage Site. The **waterfalls** are 1,708 meters wide and drop between 90 metres and 107 metres into the Batoka Gorge and an average of 550,000 cubic metres of water plunge over the edge every minute. Even from as far as 70 kilometres away this spectacle can be seen. Batoka Gorge also forms the border between Zambia and Zimbabwe. David Livingstone first came here in 1855 and reported about 'Scenes so lovely, they must have been gazed upon by angels in their flight'.

Today, visitors come here not only to look at the waterfall, but also to experience it in different ways. From Livingstone (named after the explorer), you can book activities like white water rafting, river boarding, jet boating, bungi jumping, microlighting, helicopter flights, sunset cruises and elephant back safaris.

Lower Zambezi National Park

This park is **Zambia's newest park** and although it might not have the same density of animals as other parks in the area, it is worth coming here for its **unspoilt wilderness**. Statistically it is 4092 sq kilometres big, but in reality it is joined with Zimbabwe's Mana Pools Reserve with only the Zambezi River between them. The wildlife includes hippo, elephant, zebra, impala, buffalo, waterbuck, kudu, baboons and fish eagle, but also predators like lion and leopard. A good way of exploring is to go on a **canoe safari**.

Country Information - MALAWI

Facts

Capital:	Lilongwe
Size:	118 484 sq km / 45 747 sq miles
Population:	12,158,924 (Sept. 05)
Groups:	Chewa, Nyanja, Tumbuka, Yao, Lomwe, Sena, Tonga, Ngoni, Ngonde, Asian, European
Languages:	English, Chichewa
Local time:	GMT + 2
Seasons:	Rainy season (November to May)
Currency:	1 Malawian Kwacha = 100 Tambala
Telephone:	Country code 265, international access code 101
Electricity:	220 V / 230 V / 240 V / 50 Hz, rectangular blade plug

Established in 1891, the British protectorate of Nyasaland became the independent nation of Malawi in 1964. The Republic of Malawi is in Southern Africa. Countries bordering Malawi are Mozambique, Tanzania and Zambia. Lilongwe is the capital of Malawi and Blantyre the largest city, is an important commercial and industrial centre. Malawi's terrain consists of plateau and mountains. Lake Malawi is drained by the Shire River, a tributary of the Zambezi. Lake Malawi (600 kilometres long) is one of Africa's largest lakes. Other lakes in Malawi include Lake Chilwa and Lake Malombe. Together Malawi's lakes cover around one-fifth of the country. Malawi has a sub-tropical climate. The rainy season runs from November to May. The lakes are home to hundreds of species of fish. Perhaps the most famous is the cichlid family of fish. The lakes are also the habitat of a variety of birds such as the stork and the giant kingfisher. The population of Malawi is around 12 million. English and Chichewa are both official languages.

Points of Interest

Lake Malawi

Malawi is dominated by the **third largest lake** in Africa which takes up a fifth of the whole country. Its nickname 'calendar lake' derives from its dimensions: it is 365 miles (590 kilometres) long and 52 miles (85 kilometres) wide. It is home to more than **500 different species of fish** – more than in North America and Europe combined! Most of them belong to the family of cichlids many of which are endemic to Lake Malawi. The clear waters of this lake are also one of the **world's premier fresh water dive and snorkelling spots**. Other water sports on offer include fishing, water skiing, windsurfing and sailing. A particularly nice beach where most travelers stop is **Kande Beach**.

Country Information - TANZANIA

Facts

Capital:	Dodoma
Size:	945 087 sq km / 364 900 sq
Population:	36,766,356 (Sept. 05)
Groups:	Mainland: native African (mostly Bantu tribes), other (Asian, European, Arab) Zanzibar: Arab, native African, mixed Arab and native African
Languages:	Swahili, English, Nyamwezi, Arabic
Local time:	GMT + 3
Seasons:	Dry (January-March, July-October), short rains (November/December), long rains (April-June)
Currency:	1 Tanzanian Shilling
Telephone:	Country code 255, international access code 00
Electricity:	230 V / 50 Hz, round pins with ground or rectangular blade plug

The United Republic of Tanzania (the largest country in East Africa, including the islands of Zanzibar and Pemba) came into existence in 1964, three years after the initial independence from Britain by Tanzania. Although it shares many characteristics with its northern neighbour (especially the Swahili culture and language), it has developed along more socialist lines than has Kenya, and has not been as receptive toward foreign investment. Possibly for this reason Tanzania has not had the growth in industry that Kenya has enjoyed and the casual visitor will notice many differences of this nature between the two countries. However, Tanzania's game parks are - if anything - even better known than those of Kenya. The Serengeti National Park and neighbouring Ngorongoro Conservation Area are truly world renowned, as is Africa's highest peak Mount Kilimanjaro. All of these highlights are within easy reach of Nairobi, attracting many tourists and earning Tanzania much needed foreign exchange.

Points of Interest

Zanzibar

Zanzibar is Tanzania's **island getaway**. It has a colourful history, spice plantations and **beautiful beaches**. Zanzibar was once a trading centre for spices and slaves and a base for 19th century explorers such as Speke, Burton and Livingstone. Over the centuries, Zanzibar traded with the people of the Arabian peninsula who arrived on dhow sailboats with the annual trade winds. The Arab influence is evident in the unique architecture and diverse street stall offerings of the capital, Stone Town. In fact the Arab influence can be seen right along the East African coast with the Swahili language and culture displaying the mix of Arab and African cultures over the centuries.

The capital **Stone Town** with its intriguing alleyways and markets is an interesting mix of cultures and known for its intricately carved wooden doors. Make sure to go on a **Spice Tour** where you will learn everything about, well, spices. Other trips include swimming with dolphins or snorkelling/diving around the island.

Arusha

Since most safaris start from here, Arusha is nicknamed the '**safari capital**' as it is the gateway to the Serengeti, Lake Manyara and Tarangire National Park. Nestling at the bottom of Mount Nero, Tanzania's third highest peak, Arusha is a fast growing town with good views of Mount Kilimanjaro. North of town, you can find authentic Masaai villages.

Serengeti National Park

Of all the wildlife sanctuaries in Africa, the Serengeti is probably the most famous. With 14,763 square kilometres (the size of Northern Ireland) and no fences between the adjacent game parks, it is also one of the biggest. No wonder the Masai call it 'serengeti' – meaning 'endless plains'. Its **landscape**, formed by volcanic activity, varies from grass plains in the south, savannah in the centre and hilly, grassland in the north to extensive woodland and black clay plains in the west. Small rivers, lakes and swamps are scattered throughout. Each area has its own particular atmosphere and wildlife.

The **wildlife** here comes in large numbers: 1,3-million wildebeests, 200,000 zebras, 1,500 lions, 1,000 elephants, 280,000 Thompson's gazelles, 25,000 buffalos, 500 species of birds, 72,000 topis, 32,000 Grant's gazelles, 8,500 giraffes and 10,000 elands.

The highlight is the **annual migration of zebra and wildebeest**. Every year in May, they leave the dry south in herds of thousands and head to the greener north and west. Lion, cheetah, hyena and wild dog follow the wildebeest and zebra, making sure that only the fittest survive. In November, when the grazing is finished in the north, this army of animals surges back to the now green pastures of the south where they calve and mate before starting the entire cycle again.

Ngorongoro Crater Conservation Area

Located between the Serengeti and Lake Manyara, this 8 300 sq kilometres big conservation area is home to the famous volcanic **Ngorongoro Crater** which is the largest unbroken caldera in the world and a World Heritage Site. The crater, which is 610 metres deep and 260 km wide, hosts almost any animal species found in East Africa. Most of the **25,000 larger animals** within the crater itself are zebra and wildebeest, but there are also about 20 black rhinos and 100 lions, including the marvellous black-maned males. The crater floor also has a soda lake which is home to flamingos and other water birds. Besides these, a whole array of species lives in the crater: leopard, cheetah, hyena, elephant, warthog, impala, buffalo, hartebeest, eland, various antelope and birds. The rim of the crater, where all of the lodges are located, offers spectacular views over this enclosed Garden of Eden.

Olduvai Gorge

The name Olduvai derives from a misspelling of Oldupai, the correct Masai word for this region which is named after a wild sisal plant fibre growing in the gorge. The gorge is a steep sided long ravine and forms part of the Great Rift Valley. Located between the Serengeti and Ngorongoro, this is the place where **Mary and Louis Leakey** discovered **early remains of mankind** in the late 1950's and later an **ancient human footprint**. It is therefore also called the '**Cradle of Mankind**' - as the findings suggest that our species first evolved in this area.

Country Information - KENYA

Facts

Capital:	Nairobi (from the Masai word 'sweet water' – once a major watering hole)
Size:	582 646 sq km / 362 116 sq miles
Population:	36,913,721 (Sept. 07)
Groups:	Kikuyu, Luhya, Luo, Kalenjin, Kamba, Kisii, Meru, non-African (Asian, European, and Arab)
Languages:	English, Swahili, Kikuyu, Luo, Kikamba, Masai, Samburu
Local time:	GMT +3
Seasons:	Dry (June-October), short rainfalls (October-December) and long rainfalls (March-June)
Currency:	1 Kenyan Shilling (KES) = 100 Cents
Telephone:	Country code 254, international access code 00
Electricity:	240 V / 50 Hz, rectangular blade plug

Kenya has one of the most diverse and colourful collections of tribal people found anywhere on the continent. The country has been a major migratory pathway for millennia. In the 16th Century most of the Swahili trading towns, including Mombasa, were either sacked or occupied by the Portuguese and this marked the end of the Arab monopoly of the Indian Ocean trade. Kenya straddles the equator and covers an area of 582,646 sq kilometres, which includes around 13,600 sq kilometres of inland lakes. Kenya's population of around 37 million is made up almost entirely of Africans. There are more than 70 tribal groups and distinctions among them are already blurred with western cultural values being adopted. Most of the African population is Christian whereas the Asian population are a mix of Muslim, Hindu and Sikh. English and Swahili are the official languages, however there are many other major tribal languages spoken.

Points of Interest

Masai Mara Game Reserve

The Masai Mara Game Reserve is often abbreviated as 'the Mara' meaning 'mottled' – due to its patchy landscape. It is coined by gently rolling hills, woodland and acacia trees and watered by two rivers, the Mara and Talek.

There are no fences between the Masai Mara and the bordering Serengeti National Park in Tanzania, so large numbers of animals roam freely between the two parks. The most dramatic spectacle of the area is the **migration of zebra and wildebeest**. Every year in May, they leave the dry south in herds of thousands and head first west and then north to the greener grasses. Lion, cheetah, hyena and wild dog follow the wildebeest and zebra, making sure that only the fittest survive. In November, when the grazing is finished in the north, this army of animals surges back to the now green pastures of the south where they calve and mate before starting the entire cycle again.

You will also be likely to spot the **Big 5** here - buffalo, elephant, rhino, lion and leopard. It's little known but the term originally referred to the 5 large animals that proved the most challenging to early colonial hunters – and therefore became a much sort after prize. Thankfully, visitors today prefer to shoot these animals with cameras rather than guns and they make a very exciting find in the bush. The park also has very healthy populations of cheetah, zebra, giraffe, hippo, hyena, jackal, eland, crocodile and many different birds.

Several sub-tribes of the **Masai people** live within the Masai Mara Game Reserve. They are a proud semi-nomadic, non-hunting people who live and raise their cattle in harmony with the surrounding wildlife. Despite the growth of modern civilisation, the Masai have largely managed to maintain their traditional ways.

Useful Swahili Words

Hello	Jambo	Yes	Ndiyo
How are you?	Habari gain?	No	Hapana
Thank you	Ahsante	Bring here	Lethe hapa
Mister	Bwana	To eat	Kula
Go away	Enda	Today	Leo
Slowly	Pole pole	Tomorrow	Kesho
Coffee	Kahawa	To sleep	Kulala
Tea	Chai	Goodbye	Kwaheri
Milk	Maziwa	How much?	Ngapi?
Water	Maji	Come here	Njoo hapa
Sugar	Sukari	Welcome again	Karibu tena
Food	Chakula	See you	Tutaonana
Please	Tafadali	No, thanks	Hapana sante



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BEFORE YOU GO.....



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