

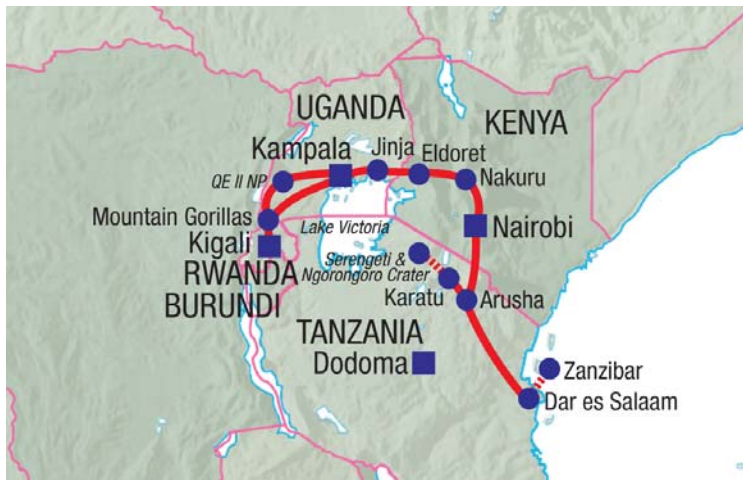
Serengeti & Gorilla Adventure

23 Days

Dar es Salaam to Kampala

Tanzania, Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda

Enjoy an evocative journey from the lush Virunga Mountains, the home of the rare Mountain Gorilla, to the grassy plains of the mighty Serengeti. We take in some of the best national parks and lakes, where you'll come face to face with Africa's spectacular wildlife, and we relax by the stunning beaches of the Indian Ocean. Go wild with us on this classic African adventure.



ITINERARY

Day 1: Dar es Salaam

Day 1 is an arrival day so you can arrive at any time. Your tour leader will usually hold a group meeting at approximately 6pm (check the notice board in the reception of your joining site for the exact time and location). At this meeting, your tour leader will give a briefing about the tour, outline the plan for the next few days, answer any questions and collect your 'Local Fund' payment in full in US\$ cash. Then there will usually be the option for everyone to go out for dinner and drinks to start to get to know one another.

Dar es Salaam is a big, noisy, bustling port town on the shores of the Indian Ocean. It is the gateway to the exotic island of Zanzibar. If you would like to visit Zanzibar remember to arrive a few days early so you have time before the tour's departure.

Day 2-6: Arusha / Ngorongoro Crater / Serengeti National Park

In the morning we leave early and travel north on our way to two of the most famous sights in Africa: the Ngorongoro Crater and the Serengeti National Park.

Arusha is our base for several days. It is a busy, bustling town with email, coffee shops, banks and many other modern amenities.

During your stay you will have the option to visit the famous Ngorongoro crater and/or the Serengeti National Park. Both excursions are with local operators in jeeps and land rovers.

The Ngorongoro Volcano, before it exploded and collapsed 2 millions years ago, was one of the world's tallest mountains. Today, the crater is one of the most stunning natural wonders in the world, and is approximately 610m deep with an enclosed area of about 260km². There is a soda lake with flamingos as

well as open plains and forest areas. Because the sides of the crater are very steep, the area has become a natural enclosure for a wide variety of wildlife which can be seen in their natural habitats. You'll have the opportunity to get very close to the game here for photos as there is nowhere for them to hide!

From the Ngorongoro crater, you can either return to Arusha for a couple of free days or continue on to the Serengeti National Park for two nights of camping in one of the most famous African wildlife parks in the world. Surrounded by the sights and sounds of wild, rugged Africa, you might spot teeming herds of wildebeest, antelopes, zebra, buffalo and big cats such as lion and cheetah. If you are lucky enough to be in the park around the time of the largest mammal migration in the world, that of the Serengeti wildebeest, you'll see around 1.5 million-strong herd migrating to

The Facts

- **Tour Code:** BXFGS1
- **100% camping**
- **All meals while camping, some lunches**
- **Transport:** modern fully equipped Mercedes Benz expedition vehicle
- **Crew:** tour leader & driver
- **Group size:** average 15-25, max 34 (age 18-35)
- **Local Fund:**
The Local Fund is quoted as per the brochure at the time of booking. However, all passengers are required to pay the full Local Fund for their tour as stated in the brochure current at the time of travel. Our brochures are published annually on November 1st. Check the current pre-departure documents to ensure your local fund information is correct.
- **Disclaimer**
These trip notes are correct at the time of the 'Last Updated' date. On occasion we may need to update these notes and they may be different to the information printed in our current brochure. Please make sure to print and review a copy of your trip notes as close to your departure as possible in case there have been any changes.

Optional Excursions: Ewo jsv h ixempw!

Serengeti & Gorilla Adventure

follow the African rainy season - a truly unbelievable, magical sight.

Day 7-8: Nairobi

Leaving Arusha, we pass through traditional Masai tribes and villages on our way to Nairobi, the capital of Kenya and the gateway to East Africa. At Namanga we will cross the border into Kenya. You have two free days to enjoy the busy city life Nairobi has to offer.

Day 9-10: Nakuru National Park

In the morning we depart for Lake Nakuru National Park. Driving across the Great Rift Valley of Africa, which stretches around 5,000 km from Lebanon to Mozambique, we admire vast plains and spectacular views along the way. Once we've arrived in the park, you will see the incredible sight of thousands of stunning flamingos grazing at the lake's edge. We arrive in the afternoon with time for you to explore the area and visit the local craft market. Our campsite is in an ample position and as you fall asleep you'll be able to hear the sounds of many untamed African animals in the wild.

The following morning you can take a full day game drive in minivans to view more wildlife than your memory card can handle, including leopards, lions, zebra, buffalo and rhino. Here, black rhinos are used in a breeding program which aims to increase the population of this semi-endangered species.

Day 11-12: Eldoret - Kampala

We leave Lake Nakuru early in the morning and travel on through the many tea plantations via Eldoret to Uganda. Tea is one of Kenya's main exports.

Kampala is Uganda's bustling capital city, boasting plenty of markets as well as some lively restaurants and bars. We spend an evening here with free time to get a feel for city life, visit the market, try some typical Ugandan cuisine and catch up on emails. You can choose to visit Ngamba Island Chimpanzee Sanctuary, where orphaned chimpanzees rescued

from poachers and traders are looked after.

Day 13-15: Mbarara - Queen Elizabeth II National Park

In the morning we travel via Mbarara to the famous Queen Elizabeth II National Park, often referred to as the 'QE2'. Established in 1954, and situated at the base of the Rwenzori Mountains, this park suffered badly during the years of the Ugandan/Tanzanian war and much of the wildlife there was shot. Today, however, the wildlife has recovered and the Kazinga Channel, which joins Lake Edward and Lake George, is famous for having the world's largest concentration of hippos that are easily viewed from a boat on the channel. We spend a full day here and you also have the option to take a game drive and cruise in the park.

Day 16-19: Kabale Town - Rhuengeri

Please note: this part of the itinerary may change - if it is not possible to see the gorillas in Rwanda, we will endeavour to see them in Uganda instead, but this will depend upon permit availability and may incur additional costs. See your separate gorilla trekking notes for more information.

Over the next three days we will base ourselves at Rhuengeri and travel into the mountains to trek for the rare Mountain Gorillas. These gorillas are found in the Virunga Mountains, a range of volcanic mountains and rainforest which covers parts of Uganda, Congo and Rwanda. On the Rwandan side, there are currently five groups of habituated Mountain Gorillas ranging in number from 7 - 37 individuals. We start our trekking from Kinigi into their mountainous habitat with our guides, who will track their spoor and last movements to find them. The trek can be demanding at times and the weather can be very changeable, but the experience of seeing these magnificent animals in the wild is worth every bit.

It is possible that you may be lucky enough to come within arm's length of these beautiful creatures if they approach

you, but you are required to maintain a distance of 5 metres from the animals at all times. Your time with the gorillas is restricted to around 45-60 minutes, to safeguard the families from too much human contact.

Day 20-21: Kigali & Lake Bunyoni

Kigali, the capital of Rwanda, is a short drive from Rhuengeri and we will stop here to visit the Genocide Museum (optional) to learn about the horrific 1994 genocide in which an estimated one million Rwandans died, with twice that number fleeing into exile. If you would like to learn more about the genocide, the film Hotel Rwanda offers a compelling account of the history of the event.

From Kigali we head to Lake Bunyoni and have the next day free. There are a range of optional activities available here, such as canoe trips around the lake and mountain biking around the shores.

Day 22-23: Kampala

We retrace our steps to Kampala for one night.

Please note: The itinerary above is given as a guide only and tour leaders may need to make adjustments due to unforeseen circumstances. The crew will also try to be in the best place for local holidays and festivals, etc. We endeavour to incorporate any permanent changes into these 'Trip notes' and as such, the itinerary may vary slightly from the one printed in the brochure. To make sure you have the most up to date itinerary please download a copy of these trip notes from our website just before travelling.

ADDITIONAL INFO

Your 'Need2Know' Pre-departure Information

Once you have booked your tour, your travel agent will provide you with our Africa Need2Know to help you prepare for your trip (if you do not receive this, please ask your agent for a copy or you can download it from our website). It is very important that you read this document before you travel for valuable

Serengeti & Gorilla Adventure

info on the Local Fund, travel documents, insurance & health; money & budgeting; packing; joining your tour & life on the road; accommodation, transportation and crew details. In addition you will also need to download the Country Profile(s) from our website for more specific information about visas, local currency, weather etc.

Arrival in Dar es Salaam

On arrival at Dar es Salaam International airport, it is best to take a taxi to your accommodation. Airport taxis charge US\$10-15 to downtown Dar es Salaam but are not metered so you MUST negotiate your price (and write it down) before you get in. Dar es Salaam airport is approximately 15kms (25mins depending on traffic) from downtown Dar es Salaam.

Dar es Salaam Accommodation

All tours which start OR finish in Dar es Salaam will stay at Mikadi Beach Camp. Please note that this is not in downtown Dar es Salaam but on the beach, which can be reached either by driving around the peninsular or by taking a short ferry ride. Mikadi Beach Camp (contact us for the address)
Tel: 00255 (22) 2820485
Email: mikadibeach@yahoo.com

The campsite will store valuables for you so please leave all your important documents, money and travellers cheques here when you go out.

Please note that the Budget Expeditions tour will camp here, but if you plan to stay a few nights before or after your tour, you will need to reserve a banda as tents are not provided by the campsite.

Dar es Salaam City

You should carry some form of ID and a photocopy of your passport while you are out. It is advisable not to wear chains or expensive looking watches or jewellery while in most African cities. Also keep your camera concealed when not in use and carry day packs on your front for extra safety. You should be sensible and alert at all times and avoid travelling alone after dark if at all possible. Please note that the public

beaches near Dar es Salaam are NOT safe at night so do not go there. There are also many pick pockets around the Zanzibar ferry terminals so you need to keep watch over your belongings at all times. You should find some notes on the campsite's notice board which recommend a few good places to eat and drink, do laundry etc.

Joining Your Tour

Day 1 is an arrival day so that you know the latest day you can arrive and then have some free time to see some of the local sights. Your tour leader will usually hold a group meeting at approx. 6.00pm on Day 1 (check the notice board in the hotel reception for the exact time and location). Your tour leader will give a briefing about the tour, outline the plan for the next few days, answer any questions and collect your 'Local Fund' payment in full in US\$ cash. Then there will usually be the option for everyone to go out for dinner and drinks to start to get to know one another.

Tour Cost & Local Fund

The cost of your tour is divided into two separate, compulsory payments - the tour cost and the Local Fund. The tour cost is paid to your travel agent and the 'Local Fund' must be paid directly to your tour leader in US\$ cash on Day 1 of your trip. The Local Fund covers most of the 'group' expenses (such as meals when camping, campsite fees and cooking gas, hotels and hostels, national park fees). Your tour leader will manage the Local Fund and he/she will let you know throughout the trip how this money is being spent. We keep individual accounts for each client's Local Fund, so we can give you the choice (at the group meeting on day 1) to use multi share accommodation (when available) to keep your costs down. Once your tour finishes, any left over Local Fund will be refunded to you on an individual basis.

Optional Excursions

Choose as many or as few optional excursions as you like! Your tour leader will be able to make recommendations and bookings in advance for most of

these extras so you have more flexibility and control over your trip. Visit www.budgetexpeditions.com and download our Optional Excursions Guide for details.

Entrance Fees

Entrance fees to sites described in the itinerary are not included. This enables those who have a student card to enjoy even more savings.

Spending Money

To give you a rough idea, we recommend you allow at least US\$150 per week. This should cover additional meals, snacks, laundry, drinks, some souvenirs and most museum and site entrance fees. This should cover meals when staying in hotels, snacks, laundry, drinks, some souvenirs and most museum and site entrance fees. Remember this amount DOES NOT allow for any of the optional excursions!

What's not included?

Before you book your trip you must also budget for; international flights and airport departure taxes, visas, travel insurance (compulsory to join a trip), personal travel items, sleeping bag, camping mattress, spending money (see above) and optional excursions.

Special Luggage Requirements

The Need2Know sheets include an extensive packing checklist however you MUST bring a sleeping bag (and sleeping sheet if required), camping mattress and towel. An insect repellent with a high concentration of DEET is also essential and you may wish to bring a mosquito net. The weather throughout is very changeable, so you should pack lots of layers and bring along wet weather gear - a raincoat/mac and waterproof pants/trousers are a must.

Participation

Please note these tours are very much hands-on and you are expected to be involved in many of the duties in the campsite including cooking, washing up,

Serengeti & Gorilla Adventure

cleaning out the truck and vehicle packing.

Life on the road

At times we will have long drives, but there will be toilet stops en-route plus photo stops and lunch breaks. Most evenings we will stop at a bush-camp or regular campsite and you and your tent-mate will put up your tent. Everyone will pitch in to unpack the gas stoves, gas bottles, pots, pans, tables, camp stools and put up the cook tent (if required due to bad weather). Someone can fill the kettles for some hot drinks while the cooks prepare the evening meal. If you are not an expert at cooking - don't worry! Our crew are normally very skilled at organising appetising meals (it's unlikely that you'll lose weight on a Budget Expedition!). Some mornings when we don't have to break-camp, we may have a cooked breakfast. If we stay in a hostel, breakfast is occasionally provided. Lunch will be a cold buffet with bread, cheese, cold meat and salad. After

all meals everyone is responsible for washing their own plates while the washing-up team clean the pots and pans. After dinner you are free to relax, go into town or perhaps organise a night out if everyone is keen to party!

In person, by phone or online.

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www.calgarycoop.com



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South Trail Crossing.. 403-257-7247
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Toll Free..... 1-800-360-3572

