

Code FGZ **Gorillas & Zanzibar**

## Tour Dossier Introduction

**Dossier Last Updated:** 26-03-2014

**Tour Code:** FGZ

**Duration:** 25 nights / 26 days

**Joining City:** Nairobi

**Departure City:** Dar es Salaam

**Nearest Joining International Airport:** Nairobi Jomo Kenyatta Intl Airport (NBO)

**Nearest Departing International Airport:** Dar Es Salaam Julius Nyerere Int Airport (DAR)

Please check this document just before departing in case of last minute changes to your tour.

## Tour Documents

 PDF Document  Web Page

 [Packing List for Overlanding Tours](#)

 [Africa Pre-Departure Booklet](#)

 [Joining Letter for Tours Beginning in Nairobi](#)

 [Optional Excursions Guide for Tours to Africa](#)

 [Kenya Dossier](#)

 [Tanzania Dossier](#)

 [Uganda Dossier](#)

 [Swahili Language Survival Guide](#)

## What's Included

- > Game Drives in the Masai Mara Nature Reserve
- > Boat trip on Lake Bunyonyi & visit to a Pygmy Village
- > Guided Gorilla Trek (permit included)
- > Game Drive in Lake Nakuru National Park
- > Game Drives in the Serengeti National Park
- > Morning Game Drive in the Ngorongoro Crater
- > 4-day Zanzibar Island excursion including Stone Town and North Beach
- > Guided Tour of the Spice Plantations & lunch at a local house.
- > Masai Village Tour
- > 18 nights camping, 2 nights in tented camps, 2 nights assisted camping, 3 nights in hotels, hostels &

- guesthouses
- 21 breakfasts, 17 lunches, 22 dinners
- Travel by **Tucan Travel Expedition Vehicle**, boat, taxi, on foot, 4WD
- Tucan Travel Tour Leader, Tucan Travel Driver, English-speaking local guide(s) on excursions

## What's not Included

- Sleeping bag & sleeping mat
- International flights and departure taxes
- Domestic flight taxes if applicable
- Tips on included excursions, visas, travel insurance, personal items and single rooms.
- Airport transfers and pre and post tour accommodation
- Spending money – budget for meals, snacks, drinks, limited souvenirs, laundry, tips and any extras
- Optional excursions - Please see our optional excursions guide on the dossier page for a comprehensive list of optional activities and excursions available on this tour.

## Detailed Itinerary

### Day 1 to 1 - Arrive Nairobi

The first day of your tour is simply an arrival day with no pre-organised activities. In order to allow time to relax and see some of the sights you may wish to add pre tour accommodation. On arrival please ask at the reception for information on when the pre departure meeting will be held.

Many travellers use Nairobi as a stop off point on their way to other parts of Eastern Africa, but if you have the time to explore, it has a thriving night life and café culture as well as the chance to meet orphaned baby elephants and hang out with giraffes.

**Optional Excursions:** Carnivores Restaurant • The Flip Flop Recycling Company • Karen Blixen Museum, Coffee Garden & Cottages • Kazuri Bead and Pottery Factory • Giraffe Centre • Elephant Orphanage

### Day 2 to 3 - Masai Mara National Reserve

Covering of over 1,500 square kilometres and providing habitat for thousands of animals, the Masai Mara Nature Reserve is deservedly one of Kenya's most popular safari spots. We leave Nairobi in the morning, making our way by safari minivan. Wasting no time, we head off on our first game drive in the afternoon. Animals present in the reserve include the Big Five (lions, elephants, Cape buffaloes, leopards and rhinoceros), various grazing mammals which attract carnivores such as cheetahs, hyenas and jackals, as well as over 500 recorded species of birds. We stay just outside the park in permanent tents with ensuite, enjoying a buffet dinner in the evening.

The following morning we leave camp early for a second game drive, visiting the mighty Mara River en route. During the annual Great Migration, this is the setting for the thunderous display of thousands of wildebeest crossing the river while canny crocodiles lie in wait. At any time of year, the river is vitally important to the ecosystem and a good spot to view animals. We'll also visit a local Masai village, learning about the vibrant, semi-nomadic herders' way of life and join them in a local dance.

**Included Excursion:** Game Drives by 4WD in the Masai Mara National Reserve

**Approximate Travel Time:** Seven hours

**Optional Excursions:** Hot air balloon over the Masai Mara National Reserve

### Day 4 to 4 - Eldoret

Driving through the wilds of western Kenya, we make our way to Eldoret. The scenery as we pass varies from mountainous scrubland to tangled jungle ravines and fertile high tea country. The city of Eldoret is located on the Uasin Gishu Plateau west of the Great Rift Valley and was originally known as '64', because it was located 64 miles from the newly built Uganda Railway railhead at Kibigori. It is also famous for its cheese! We stay a night in Eldoret before arriving in Uganda.

**Approximate Travel Time:** Nine hours

### Day 5 to 6 - Jinja

Making our way towards the source of the mighty Nile, we cross the border into Uganda stopping at the adventure sports hub of Jinja. With world-class white water rafting on the Nile River, quad biking to local villages along the riverbank and a 44-metre bungee jump, there is plenty to entertain in this

buzzing town.

It is also the location of the Soft Power project, a British-registered community charity dedicated to improving quality of life through education. If you wish, you can visit this project and volunteer your services helping with school renovations. Your tour leader will be able to give you more information about this.

**Approximate Travel Time:** Ten hours depending on the border

**Optional Excursions:** White water rafting • Bunjee Jump • Jet Boat • Horse Riding • Cruise along the Nile • Local Community Project • Tandem kayaking  
Quad biking • Village walk

### Day 7 to 10 - Lake Bunyonyi (Gorilla Trek)

The next three days are based in Lake Bunyonyi, our start point for an excursion to see endangered mountain gorillas in the Bwindi Impenetrable Forest. There are believed to be less than 800 mountain gorillas remaining in the world, and about half of that population live in this forest. To watch them in their natural habitat is a heart-stirring experience.

You'll be picked up early in the morning and taken to the national park's office and then transferred by 4WD truck to the trek point. Specialist guides will track gorilla spoor and look for signs of the gorillas' last movements. Gorilla trekking is unpredictable and the distance can vary as gorillas may move very little or travel some distance while foraging for food. Trekking can be physically demanding at times and the weather can be very changeable, but the once-in-a-lifetime experience of seeing these magnificent animals in the wild is entirely worth the effort. 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 seven metres from the animals at all times. Your time with the gorillas is restricted to one hour to safeguard the families from excessive human contact.

Back in Lake Bunyonyi, we will visit the Batwa pygmy village and local school. The school was set up by two past passengers and the local community to help pygmy children integrate into Ugandan society. The cost of this included excursion goes directly to the school and donations of school supplies are always welcome. You can also enjoy a cruise on the lake, perhaps take a swim or relax on the shore. Meaning 'place of many little birds', Lake Bunyonyi is about 29 kilometres long and 7 kilometres wide, dotted by 29 islands. Look out for Uganda's national bird, the crested crane, among the 200 other bird species in the area.

**Included Excursions:** Gorilla Trek, Lake Bunyonyi excursion

**Approximate Travel Time:** A full day drive getting to the lake

**Optional Excursions:** Canoe on the lake • Mountain biking

### Day 11 to 11 - Kampala

Crossing the Equator, we will make our way to Uganda's capital, Kampala, passing townships, local markets and communities on the way.

**Approximate Travel Time:** Eight hours

### Day 12 to 12 - Nakuru

As we drive across the top of the Great Rift Valley, we are treated to views of the immense trench before dropping down into the valley itself. We should arrive at Lake Nakuru in the afternoon with time for you to explore the farm that sits alongside our campsite.

The next day is a full day game drive into Lake Nakuru National Park, famous for the staggering sight of the thousands of pink flamingos that ring the lake feeding along the shores. It is a rhino sanctuary and shelters both the white and the critically endangered black rhino. Also present in the park are leopards, lions, cheetahs, zebras, buffalo, Rothschild giraffes and water birds including terns, stilts, ducks, herons, pelicans, kingfishers and cormorants.

Finishing the game drive in the early afternoon, we return to the truck and drive to Lake Navaisha.

**Included Excursion:** Game drive in Lake Nakuru National Park

**Approximate Travel Time:** Full day drive to Nakuru, three hours to Naivasha

**Optional Excursions:** Kenana Knitters Project

### Day 13 to 14 - Naivasha

You may awake to some unusual sound effects this morning; from our campsite in Navaisha it is often possible to hear hippos wallowing in the lake's fresh water. Naivasha is the second largest lake in the Great Rift Valley and is a great place to enjoy a boat cruise or guided bush walk to the green crater lake. With patience and a set of binoculars you can see many different species of birdlife found in the thick papyrus and forests of acacia trees fringing the lakeshore. You may also see colobus monkeys and giraffes near the lake.

You have some free time to explore the nearby Hell's Gate National Park. Being mindful of the buffaloes you can enter this park on foot and it is one of the few parks in Africa you can explore by mountain bike. You may also like to visit Elsamere, the former home of the late Joy Adamson, who became famous

for her relationship with the lioness Elsa in the film Born Free. We will camp here for two nights before heading back to Nairobi.

**Approximate Travel Time:** Three hours

**Optional Excursions:** Boat trip on the lake • Elsamere • Visit Green Crater Lake and walking safari • Hells Gate National Park • Bike tour of Hells Gate National Park • Horse riding

#### Day 15 to 16 - Nairobi

Returning to Nairobi gives you the chance to experience some of the activities around the capital city you may have missed first time around. You may wish to enjoy a meal at the famous African buffet restaurant called Carnivores, where meat is served from Masai spears until you can eat no more and raise your flag in surrender!

**Approximate Travel Time:** Four hours

#### Day 17 to 17 - Arusha

Crossing the border into Tanzania, we make our way to Arusha. Our campsite for the evening runs a free clinic onsite offering snake anti-venom to the local people. They treat snake bites and provide free medical care to the nearly 1000 patients a month that come to them for help. There is also a snake and reptile park, Masai museum and craft market. It is here that we will prepare to enter the Serengeti National Park and Ngorongoro Crater.

**Approximate Travel Time:** Ten hours depending on the border

#### Day 18 to 19 - Serengeti National Park & Ngorongoro Crater

A place that needs no introduction, the Serengeti National Park is the most famous safari destination in Africa. We're picked up after breakfast and taken by 4WD to the national park. The afternoon is spent game driving to our campsite, located **inside** the national park to maximise our time and wildlife viewing opportunities. Before we reach the Serengeti plains, we'll stop for a stunning vista overlooking the Ngorongoro Crater, the largest unbroken, unflooded caldera in the world. The vast 300 square kilometre crater stretches out in front of you in a kaleidoscope of blues and greens and it's not until you spot the barely discernible grey speck of an elephant that you truly grasp its scale.

Every safari is unique and you will never know what's in store for you until you arrive. Among the hundreds of species in the park, you may encounter zebra, giraffe, wildebeest, buffalo, lion, cheetah, leopard, hippopotamus, hyena, elephant, vulture, monkey, warthog, gazelle and impala. Each season offers a different highlight.

Our second day in the park is a full day of game driving, trying to spot the more elusive members of the animal kingdom before heading to our campsite on the rim of Ngorongoro Crater.

**Included Excursion:** Game Drives by 4WD in the Serengeti National Park

**Optional Excursions:** Olduvai Gorge • Masai Village

#### Day 20 to 20 - Arusha

After camping on the rim of the Ngorongoro Crater our final morning game driving is spent inside crater itself - a good place to spot black rhinoceros, elephant and lions.

This afternoon, we return to stay in Arusha and reunite with the overland truck.

**Included Excursion:** Morning Game Drive by 4WD in the Ngorongoro Crater

#### Day 21 to 21 - Dar es Salaam

Dar es Salaam is a bustling port on the Indian Ocean and our gateway to the exotic island of Zanzibar.

#### Day 22 to 24 - Zanzibar

Today we are bound for the enigmatic, intoxicating Isles of Zanzibar. Taking tuk-tuks to the ferry terminal, we board our fast ferry to make the crossing. Arriving in Stone Town, we're given a guided tour of a nearby spice plantation discovering the many plants that flourish in this verdant, tropical environment. You can sample spices picked straight from the plant including fresh cloves and cinnamon bark before stopping for lunch at a local home.

The UNESCO-listed Stone Town has changed little over the past 200 years. It boasts a labyrinth of walled streets, winding alleys, bustling markets and grand crumbling architecture. You can spend many idle hours simply wandering the streets, shopping at the bazaars and admiring the intriguingly decorated elephant-proof doors before sitting down to watch the sun set with a cold beer and a sumptuous seafood feast. If food is your thing, make sure you check out the excellent night market on the promenade which serves traditional local fare.

Our time in Zanzibar is divided between Stone Town and relaxing on the powder white sands of North Beach. The most beautiful, isolated beaches in Zanzibar lie to the north and east of the island. With sparkling turquoise water and silvery sand fringed with palm trees, these beaches are nothing short of paradise. There are plenty of options available here. Relax and take it easy, indulge with a massage or go diving, snorkelling or swimming with dolphins.

**Included Excursion:** Guided Tour of the Spice Plantations and lunch at a local house.

**Optional Excursions:** Dhow Sunset Cruise • Snorkelling • Scuba Diving • Massages • Swimming with dolphins • Guided tour of Stone Town • Monkey Island

### Day 25 to 25 - Dar es Salaam

This afternoon we take a ferry back to the mainland, making the most of our last few hours on Zanzibar Island before we depart. We return to the same campsite in Dar es Salaam, reuniting with our overland truck and gear.

### Day 26 to 26 - Depart Dar es Salaam

Your adventure of a lifetime comes to an end today. If you have a late flight or have lengthened your stay by adding post tour accommodation you will have more time to explore the sights.

This itinerary is a guide. Changes may be made before or during your tour to improve the running or due to unforeseen circumstances.

## Travel Style

This is an **Overland Tour**, travelling by custom built vehicle and camping along the route. There is a maximum of 34 travellers with an average group size of 15-24.

## Gorilla Trek

This tour includes a visit to the endangered mountain gorillas in the Bwindi Impenetrable Forest (Uganda). The cost of this excursion is included in the price of the tour and permits for the excursion are limited and need to be purchased beforehand. In the event that no permits are available, you will be refunded the full cost of the excursion.

**Visit the Bwindi Impenetrable Forest & Gorilla Trek** page for important information on how to book the Gorilla Trek permit.

## Batwa Pygmy Village & Local School

Your Tour includes a visit to the Batwa Pygmy Village & Local School. This school was set up by two past Tucan Travel passengers to help integrate the local pygmy children into Ugandan Society. While Tucan Travel donate money towards the community, many passengers want to do more to help the community after visiting.

The school is in desperate need of exercise books. Your Tour Leader can help you find these educational materials in Kabale before journeying up to Lake Bunyonyi. Many of our Tour Leaders also collect any items you wish to leave behind at the end of your tour to donate to the village however, anything you wish to bring out with you, most importantly any unwanted childrens clothes would be greatly appreciated.

## Add-ons & Extras

On many of our Group Tours, we spend one night in our arrival and departure cities. If you want to explore these cities more we can book pre and post tour accommodation, city tours and airport transfers for you. Price information can be found on the price page of each tour. We also have **Add-ons** - short packages that can be booked alongside a tour or on their own and have been carefully designed to ensure you don't miss out on popular highlights.

## Day by Day Itinerary

Day	Activity	Country	Meals
Day 1	Nairobi	Kenya	D
Day 2	Masai Mara National Park		BLD
Day 3	Masai Mara National Park		BLD
Day 4	Eldoret		BLD
Day 5	Jinja	Uganda	BLD

Day 6	Jinja		BLD
Day 7	Lake Bunyonyi		BLD
Day 8	Lake Bunyonyi		D
Day 9	Lake Bunyonyi		D
Day 10	Lake Bunyonyi	Uganda	D
Day 11	Kampala		BLD
Day 12	Nakuru	Kenya	BLD
Day 13	Naivasha		BLD
Day 14	Naivasha		BLD
Day 15	Nairobi		BLD
Day 16	Nairobi		BLD
Day 17	Arusha	Tanzania	BLD
Day 18	Serengeti National Park		BLD
Day 19	Serengeti National Park		BLD
Day 20	Arusha		BLD
Day 21	Dar es Salaam		BLD
Day 22	Zanzibar		B
Day 23	Zanzibar		B
Day 24	Zanzibar		B
Day 25	Dar es Salaam		BD
Day 26	Dar es Salaam		

(B - Breakfast, L - Lunch, D - Dinner included)

Please note the day to day itinerary above is given as a GUIDELINE ONLY.

For tours that include the option of a single supplement, a ? will indicate in which destinations single rooms are available.