

## **Welcome to your TIA Safaris Nairobi, Kenya to Zanzibar, Tanzania (NZ24) trip!**

We just wanted to give you an overview of what you may need to know for your upcoming trip with us!

As a trip can be a bit overwhelming we want to provide you with some information that will help you prepare for your trip with us. Africa is not nearly as scary as many may believe it to be, but there are some things you will need to know and some things you will need to bring to make sure your trip goes as smoothly as possible:

### **Money:**

Money is accessible in most places we will go. It is a good idea to bring American dollars with you as they are still the easiest medium of exchange around the places we travel. Most Bureau de Changes and banks will also take Euros and English pounds. That being said, it is not necessary to bring your whole trip's worth of these currencies.

American dollars are the best means of exchange to pay for your optional activities as most activities will cost more in local monies. Such activities like the gorillas and the Serengeti trip must be paid in American dollars. On average we will stop every three days or so to get money from ATMs. The best cards are Visa as well as Mastercard (although there are some places where Mastercard isn't as accessible as Visa). That is not to say that other cards do not work, but these other two seem to be the most effective at obtaining local cash from dispensers. Traveler's checks are not a bad idea and obviously the safest. It will take longer and be a little more difficult to process them along the way. Most places we patronize will not take traveler's checks and you will have to exchange them at banks usually with a fee attached.

### **What to bring:**

It is important to recognize there are many things you can buy when arriving in Africa. Obviously the most important items are your passport, your necessary visas (One can check with the embassies of each country you are visiting to see if a visa is required for your country of origin), and monies. Electronic goods should be purchased at home as they are usually significantly more expensive in Africa. You **MUST** provide your own sleeping bag, blankets, pillow, and a ground mattress if desired. It is possible to get these items in Africa which can be donated to local charities at the end of the trip. Such things as cosmetics can also be purchased at the places where we do our shopping. Particular cosmetics that people use should be brought from home as Africa may not have your exact specie of shampoo, soap, facial cream, etc.

Here are other things that you will need to maximize your experience of the trip:

1. Flashlight, preferably a headtorch or headlamp
2. Insect repellent
3. Rain jacket or poncho
4. At least one set of warm clothes, especially traveling Southern Africa May – September
5. Shoes suitable for walking, hiking, and trekking
6. Towel, preferably a quick-drying type

7. A rudimentary medical kit with basic materials (band-aids, pain killers, anti-biotic creams, medicine for flu, coughs, colds, etc.)
8. Books, "Ipods", board games, cards, etc. for entertainment on the days with longer drives
9. Alarm clock and/or time piece
10. Sense of adventure and humor

**Notes on Safety:**

It is important for our passengers to understand that, although we will be there along the way to insure your safety, you must be responsible and aware of your surroundings. Most of the places we travel to are safe, but there is still crime, particularly in the cities. One should not carry a lot of cash, garish jewelry or watches, or very expensive cameras in the cities or in crowded markets.

When we are traveling in the wilds of Africa it is extremely important to listen to your guides. These are people who have been trained and/or live in these places and have intimate knowledge of the terrain and the creatures there. The only time people have been hurt in the past is when they have made a distinct effort NOT to listen to their guides and suffered the consequences. Travel in Africa does not have to be dangerous as long as visitors listen to the people that know Africa well.

**Respecting Africa:**

It is important to know what you may or not do when traveling through Africa. When you are traveling in Africa (or anywhere for that matter) you are under the jurisdiction of those country's laws and regulations. If you should choose to break a law such as carrying drugs, illegal materials, or committing a crime, there is nothing more that we at TIA Safaris will be able to do for you if you are arrested except inform your embassy. A trip to an Africa jail is not recommended. Such things as drug possession, drug use, or public displays of drunkenness can have some very profound consequences. It is better to follow the rules of the places we visit than to take the risk of punishment by local authorities.

**Photography:**

You will meet an endless array of fascinating people, places, and wildlife. It is very important to understand that there are many people, things and places of which you cannot take photos, e.g. Government buildings, government officials, road blocks, bridges, and border crossings. If there is any doubt about the desired photo subject please check with your guide as to the safety of taking its photo.

It is important to respect the people living in the places we are visiting. As a general rule please be respectful of the people you see and meet across Africa. Please check with people before you take a photo of them. For some, taking their photo is a major offense and problems will ensue if caught doing so. The best way to do it is to ask if you can get your photo taken with those people first. They may ask for something in return and you are welcome to barter for the photo opportunity. Ultimately, it must be understood that nobody wants to feel like they are a part of a human zoo or just another part of the landscape.

When in the wilds it is very important to ask if it is safe to take a photo of a creature or area. You may run into an animal that appears to be a safe distance away when, in fact, you are in its danger zone.

**Travel insurance:**

TIA Safaris **requires** that every passenger obtains travel insurance for any possible contingency. There are many places that are quite remote. In the highly unlikely case that there is an emergency, it is important that one has the coverage that will allow for such things as an emergency flight, a helicopter extraction, or hospitalization for an extended period of time. Although medical expenses are surprisingly cheap in most places, one must be prepared for every possibility.

**Vaccinations:**

Depending where you are traveling in Africa, it is necessary to obtain certain vaccinations. Many countries require a yellow fever shot and certification of your vaccination. Without the shot certification you **WILL NOT BE ALLOWED INTO THE COUNTRY**. Please check with the Center for Disease Control (CDC) website to see which shots are recommended and each country's websites to see what vaccinations they require.

**Malaria Medications:**

There are a number of possible medications for protection against Malaria. It is very important that you choose the best one for you. You should discuss the different possibilities with your doctor to see which one suits your body chemistry, other drugs you may be taking, and your needs if you are traveling other places.

One word of caution: **Larium**, or **Mefloquine**, is known to cause very serious mental problems with certain people, particularly those with a history of mental health issues. Such things as nightmares, paranoia, and even irreversible psychosis are possible. Please be very careful in choosing this drug as your alternative.

**Itinerary for Nairobi, Kenya to Zanzibar, Tanzania - 24 days (N224)**

The Pre-departure Meeting will take place Saturday evening at 5:00 PM the night before the day of departure. This will take place at Acacia Camp (unless you are otherwise informed), located off Magadi Rd and Lagata Rd. near Park Place. The Booking Office number there is (254) (0) 20 243 7871.\*

It is not recommended that you miss the Pre-departure as you will be meeting your guide and your fellow passengers for the first time. You will also be given a comprehensive introduction to your trip.

\* If you must miss the Pre-departure for whatever reason, you must be ready with your personal items at the truck, Sunday morning at 7:30AM.

**Day 1-2: Maasai Mara**

After leaving Acacia Camp at 8:30AM, we stop at the breathtaking Rift Valley overlook. Learning about Kenya's history, we then travel to the gates of the world renowned Maasai Mara, the northern-most point of the Serengeti ecosystem. After a short game drive, we arrive at our camp deep in the heart of the Mara. Staying in permanent tents, we spend the night listening to the calls of the African wild.

The following morning we are up early to begin a day of game-driving through the Mara. We stop for lunch along the Mara River where one may opt for a walk along its banks to see the pods of hippos and massive crocodiles for which the Mara is known. The late afternoon allows time for overlanders to visit a Maasai village to see how these fascinating pastoralists survive alongside African wildest animals.

#### Day 3: Kisumu

We drive to Kisumu and set up camp in the lush grasses on the shore of Lake Victoria. At night we go on a night-walk to find some of the areas nocturnal creatures, hoping to see, but not disturb, one of the many hippos that sometimes find its way into the campsite!

#### Day 4: Kampala

We cross the border into Uganda and cruise to Kampala, Uganda's capital. We shop and prepare ourselves for our adventure to the gorillas. We spend the night at the eclectic campsite Red Chile. For those who want to experience Kampala's culture, its colorful night-life awaits.

#### Days 5-8: Gorillas and Lake Bunyonyi

These days are spent on the breath-taking shores of Lake Bunyoni, a crater lake over 2700 feet deep! As each group awaits their turn to see the gorillas, the others may experience such adventures as fishing, canoeing, village tours, or just relaxing next to the lake. Those whose turn it is to see the gorillas, will trek through the dense forests of the Virunga mountains to find the legendary creatures.

#### Day 9: Kampala

We return to Kampala to experience civilization's amenities once again. We shop to prepare ourselves for the next portion of the trip. For those who missed Kampala's nightlife, they will have a second chance to experience it.

#### Day 10: Jinja

Those who want to try their hand and will at conquering the Mighty Nile, have their chance in Jinja. Those electing not to raft have an assortment of activities to choose from: Softpower community volunteering, quad-biking in the hills around Jinja, horse-riding, or just relaxing at Adrift's campsite on a cliff overlooking the Nile.

#### Day 11: Embu

A long day of driving arrives us at the living farm of Embu adjacent to Lake Nakuru National Park. Our time here provides us a look at the intricacies of a living, working farm and going on a late-night search for the elusive Embu, or, chameleon.

#### Day 12: Lake Nakuru National Park

We spend the day game-driving through one of Kenya's premiere game parks where we have the possible privilege of seeing both the black and white rhino, four of the Big Five, and Nakuru's resident flamingo colonies. After our game drive we head to Crayfish Camp on the shores of Lake Naivasha.

#### Days 13: Lake Naivasha

At Lake Naivasha a number of activities await. Hiking a crater lake, horse-riding through Hell's Gate National Park, boating amongst the hippos of Naivasha, and having High Tea at Elsemere (the former home of Joy and George Adamson of Born Free repute) are some of the extraordinary activities one may do here.

#### Day 14: Nairobi

Arriving in Nairobi around 10:30am gives passengers the chance to experience the hustle and bustle of Nairobi's biggest and busiest city, do some shopping, and prepare for the next ten days on the road. Some will depart here as others prepare for the continuing trip.

#### Day 15: Arusha

We depart the Boulevard Hotel at 9:30 am. We cross the border into Tanzania and learn about the country's colorful history and the Serengeti. We arrive at Meserani Snake Park in the early evening and set up camp. For those brave enough to do it, we have an informed tour of the park and its reptile denizens.

#### Day 16: Arusha and Ngorongoro Conservation Area

After a morning shopping for supplies in downtown Arusha and a visit to the Arusha Cultural Center, we head out in 4x4s to Ngorongoro Conservation Area. After a short game drive through the Montane forest on the Crater Rim, we reach the beautiful Simba campsite overlooking the Crater itself. We spend the night in the fenceless campsite listening for the sounds of grazing buffalo, zebra, and the Crater Rim's many other denizens.

#### Day 17: Ngorongoro Crater and the Serengeti

We arise early and head down into the Crater. We spend up to six hours covering the Crater floor hoping to catch a glimpse of the Crater's permanent citizens: Wildebeast, Lions, Huge tusker elephants, hippos, zebras, and the resident black rhinos that inhabit the Crater floor. After lunch in the Crater, we drive the dirt roads west from the Crater highlands to the vast, endless plains of the Serengeti. We game drive for another several hours to our campsite by the Seronera River.

#### Day 18: Serengeti to Arusha

We awaken early, have breakfast, and once again game drive for several hours until lunch time. We then head back to Arusha and Meserani Snake Park. Over dinner, we reminisce about our great Serengeti adventure.

#### Day 19: Dar Es Salaam

After a long day's drive we arrive at the Indian Ocean and the seaside city of Dar es Salaam. We spend the night at the beautiful campsite, Kipepeo Beach, and ready ourselves for our trip to Zanzibar the following morning.

#### Day 20: Zanzibar

We hop on the 7:00 ferry from Dar es Salaam to Zanzibar. We arrive in Stonetown, a World Heritage site. Everyone will have plenty of time to do such activities as the famous Spice tour, Dolphin Cruise, and/or Prison Island to see the giant Aldabra tortoises. At sunset we meet for drinks overlooking the ocean and then head to the night market for Zanzibari delicacies.

#### Days 21-22: Nungwi

We travel north on the island of Unguja to its northernmost point and the village of Nungwi. Just relaxing on the white sand beaches or doing more water activities like diving, snorkeling, fishing, or sailing are all possible on Nungwi's palm-studded, white sand beaches.

#### Day 23: Stonetown

Our trip finishes. Those who return to Dar will leave on the 12:00pm ferry to catch a flight from the mainland. Others may be catching their flights to Dar from Zanzibar itself.

Safari Njema!

**If you have any other questions, please don't hesitate to call or email us!**

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**We look forward to seeing you in Nairobi...**