

# Footprint Adventures

*the way to go.....*



**Travel** Itinerary



## THE ULTIMATE TRANS AFRICA

### The Ultimate Trans Africa Experience

An amazing chance for you to travel from London in Africa in 43 weeks, down the entire west coast then back up thru eastern Africa and into the Middle East, ending in Istanbul.

**Where we go.** The Trans Africa is the longest expedition we run. On this safari you will experience an unusual range of African culture, geography and climate. We cover 42,000 kilometers of the continent by road, starting in Europe to the Cape of Good Hope in southern Africa. The trip then continues to Nairobi, Cairo and Istanbul.

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**This trip is comprised of three sections as follows:**

**1st Leg: 22 Weeks, 16 Countries + 1 week Layover in Cape Town = 23 weeks**

**London to Cape Town**

**Visiting:** - Spain, Morocco, Mauritania, Mali, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Togo, Benin, Nigeria, Cameroon, Gabon, Congo, DR Congo, Angola, Namibia & South Africa.

**2nd Leg: 7 weeks + 7 more countries + 1 week layover in Kenya = 31 Weeks**

**London to Nairobi**

**Visiting:** - South Africa, Botswana, Zambia, Malawi, Tanzania, Kenya & Uganda.

**3rd Leg: 12 weeks + another 6 countries = 43 Weeks**

**London to Istanbul**

**Visiting:** - Kenya, Ethiopia, Sudan, Egypt, Jordan, Syria & Turkey

**INCLUDED:** Transport from London to your destination. Entrance to Lake Nakuru National Park, Masai Mara & Etosha National Park. We fly you from London to Malaga to join the truck.

**HIGHLIGHTS:** Gibraltar, Riff Mountains, Sahara Desert, Niger River, West African Coast, the Sahel, River Nile, Mountain Gorillas, Mountains of Ethiopia, wonders of ancient Egypt.

**EXTRAS:** Visas from £550, personal Insurance, flights, restaurant meals, optional side trips, flights in case an unforeseen border closure or blocked route due to politics, in this case we will collect you at a chosen place to continue our trip.

## The Route

### London to Cape Town

**Week 1 - 4:** Europe, Malaga in Spain Morocco, Mauritania

**Week 5 - 10:** Mali, Burkina Faso, Ghana

**Week 11 - 12:** Togo, Benin, Nigeria

**Week 13:** Cameroon

**Week 14 - 15:** Gabon, Republic of Congo, Cabinda (Angola)

**Week 16:** Democratic Republic of Congo

**Week 17 - 18:** Angola

**Week 19 - 20:** Namibia

**Week 21 - 22:** South Africa

**Week 23:** Cape Town

### Cape Town to Nairobi & Gorillas 8 Weeks.

**Week 24 - 25:** South Africa, Botswana

**Week 26:** Zambia, Malawi

**Week 27 - 29:** Tanzania, Kenya

**Week 30:** Uganda

**Week 31:** Nairobi

### Nairobi to Istanbul 12 Weeks

**Week 1 - 2:** Kenya

**Week 3 - 4:** Ethiopia

**Week 5 - 6:** Sudan

**Week 7 - 8:** Egypt

**Week 9 - 10:** Jordan, Syria, Lebanon

**Week 11 - 12:** Syria, Turkey

**London to Cape Town and Nairobi and on to Istanbul - 43 Weeks**

**Tour summary**

<b>London to Cape Town</b>	<b>22 Weeks</b>
<b>London to Nairobi</b>	<b>30 Weeks</b>
<b>London to Istanbul</b>	<b>43 Weeks</b>

## Counties Visited - 30

Spain, Morocco, Mauritania, Mali, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Togo, Benin, Nigeria, Cameroon, Gabon, Congo, DR Congo, Angola, Namibia, South Africa, Botswana, Malawi, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Malawi, Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia, Sudan, Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Turkey.

**What's it like?** As we will be camping and travelling for an extended period of time, you must be prepared for an adventurous challenge. It can be hot and dusty, and will sometimes be out of contact from the rest of the world. This means no telephones, shops or any other mod cons. We need you to participate and work with all members of the expedition. For the Trans we use sturdy purpose-built vehicles for these rugged off-road conditions.

## London to Cape Town

### Week 1 - 4: Europe, Morocco, Mauritania

We start the trip at **Malaga in Spain**. Crossing the straits of **Gibraltar to Morocco**, we visit the coastal capital city of **Rabat** and visit **Casablanca.Meknes**, on the high plains is of the many ancient walled cities with covered markets and a labyrinth of narrow winding streets. We visit the ancient Roman ruin of **Volubilis**, followed by **Fes, Marrakech** and the **Atlas Mountains**. We pass into the **Sahara Desert** and follow the **Atlantic Coast** - it is never forgotten; oases with cool water surrounded by palms, stretches of sand as big as a small country, old forts, camel trains following centuries old trading routes, and a night sky undiluted by city lights. We go hundreds of miles off road, sometimes digging the truck out of the soft sands to get through.

### Week 5 - 10: Mali, Burkina Faso, Ghana

We enter the **Sahel**; the vast semi arid desert that separates the Sahara from the forests of black Africa and follow the **Niger River**, visiting the old mud towns of **Mopti & Djenne**. On the Bandiagara escarpment we trek to the small villages of the **Dogon**. **Burkina Faso** is famous for its beautiful lost wax bronze statues. In **Ghana** we cross the jungle to the beaches of the **Gold Coast** and visit the slaving forts.

### Week 11 - 12: Togo, Benin, Nigeria, Cameroon

Togo and Benin are only fifty miles wide. Here the religion is the African tradition of Voodoo. On Nakoue Lagoon you can take canoes to visit the fishing villages built high above the water on bamboo stilts. Nigeria is the most populous country in Africa, with 100 million people. We visit **Lagos**, the commercial capital and largest city in West Africa and head on to Abuja the political capital, then time at **Wikki Warm Springs** to relax for a few days. Leaving the warm springs we head to **Calabar**, passing the outskirts of the Cross-River National Park.

### Week 13: Cameroon

Entering Cameroon, we stay on the beach at **Limbe**. For those that are adventurous, you can climb West Africa's largest mountain, **Mount Cameroon**. From the coast we visit the capital **Yaounde**.

### Week 14 - 15: Gabon, Republic of Congo, Cabinda (Angola)

Leaving Yaounde, we cross into Gabon and the capital city of Libreville. Gabon is famous for it's populations of lowland gorilla, though most people prefer to see the mountain gorillas in East Africa. From the capital there are several excursions you can take into surrounding nature reserves and Africa's largest bush meat market. Leaving **Libreville**, we pass through Lambarene, home to the famous **Dr. Albert Schweitzer**, Nobel peace prize winner for founding the Lambarene Leprosy Hospital and his work with the downtrodden locals. We enter The **Republic of Congo**

Driving through bamboo forest tunnels we make our way back to the coast reaching **Point Noire**. Here you can visit the **Jane Goodall Chimp sanctuary**, or relax on the beach. We enter **Cabinda** the oil rich exclave of Angola

with the Congo to the East and the Atlantic to the west; where you can watch the flames burning off from the offshore oil rigs.

## Week 16: Democratic Republic of Congo

We then enter DR Congo crossing the mighty **Congo River** by a massive bridge overlooking **Matadi town**; a sea port over 100km upriver from the ocean

## Week 17 - 18: Angola

**Angola** only opened up to tourism in 2004, With the closure of the routes through Sudan, African Trails started going this way through one of the largest and least visited countries in Africa.. The people are friendly and the views astounding. Driving along the red mud roads we reach the coast and the capital **Luanda**, its very Portuguese in its buildings and Brazilian in its beach attire with a line of beach bars and restaurants in the bay. We follow the coast passing lots of waterfalls on the way to **Lubango town** 2000 meters high on a plateau. It is home to the third of the **great statues of Jesus**; the others being in Rio and Lisbon.

## Week 19 - 20: Namibia

Entering Namibia, we encounter a vast array of environments and cultures. Once occupied by Germany, Namibia produces a blend of German, African and Afrikaans influences. The Himba peoples of the North are most noted for their red ochre body paint and their traditional lifestyle. Next stop is **Etosha Pan National Park**. Thousands of years ago this vast **saltpan** was a lake, until the **Kunene River** changed its course and deprived the lake of its water source. Now the pan and surrounding bush support large numbers and a wide range of wildlife. We spend a couple of day's game viewing from the truck during the day and spend the evenings around the **floodlit water holes** at the park's campsites. These water holes provide an excellent opportunity to observe animals that are hard to find during the day, particularly **rhino** and also smaller animals such as the **genet**. **Elephant, lion, giraffe, zebra, oryx, ostrich, springbok, jackals, hyenas** and **meercats** are also likely to be seen at **Etosha**.

From wild animals to tame ones, we spend a night at the **Cheetah Farm** where you can scratch the big cats behind the ears before watching them tuck in to their evening meal. Heading for the **Atlantic Ocean Coast**, we visit Africa's largest cape fur seal colony, **Cape Cross**. Swakopmund is an old German colonial seaside resort with plenty of things to do for the energetic and plenty of beer cellars for those after a more relaxing time. The energetic can go horse-riding or sand boarding on the dunes, deep sea fishing in the Atlantic or scenic flights over the coastline. Heading inland, we enter the **Namib Desert**, famous for the 300m high sand dunes. We enjoy sunrise at the top of the most photographed dune, **Dune 45** before taking a tour with local guides into the remote parts of **Sossusvlei**.

After an overnight stay in the desert we drive south to **Fish River Canyon**, at 85km long and 400m deep it's second in size only to the **Grand Canyon**. You can trek down to the bottom **of the** canyon and, from the viewpoints at the top, watch the setting or rising of the sun. There are seasonal **hot springs** in the south at **Ai Ais**. Our last stop in **Namibia** is the **Orange River**, which forms the border with **South Africa**.

## Week 21 - 22: South Africa

Crossing the river we arrive in South Africa and travel south through **Namaqualand**, South Africa's prime farming areas. We drive through the mountain valleys of the Cederberg and stony semi-deserts before arriving in Stellenbosch, the centre of one of the Cape's many wine routes. A wine tour with plenty of tasting makes for a great day out.

## Week 23: Cape Town

We have a weeks break from the trip in Cape Town. It's a beautiful city, nestled at the foot of Table Mountain; plenty of cafes, pubs, clubs, markets and sights. You can climb the mountain or take the cable car to the top for some wonderful views of the city and the Cape Peninsula and visit Robben Island

## Cape Town to Nairobi & Gorillas 8 Weeks, including a week break in Cape Town

### Week 24 - 25: South Africa, Botswana

Departing **Cape Town** we head north towards **Botswana** and the **Kalahari Desert** via Kimberly. We travel along the edge of the **Kalahari Desert** to **Maun**. A small town on the edge of the **Okavango Delta**, and the starting point for the Mokoro trip. A Mokoro is a traditional dugout canoe and your transport into the Delta. As you glide through the waterways, you will see a fantastic array of wetland wildlife, birds in particular and you are also likely to come across hippos or elephants taking a drink from the shore. You can go on a walking safari to look for giraffe, buffalo and rare antelope such as the tsessebe. This overnight stay is a great wilderness experience.

We spend a night by the banks of the **Chobe River**, in Kasane. Here hippo, buffalo and crocodiles share the river bank and occasionally pay us a visit through the night. Here you can take a sunset cruise on the river or take an afternoon game drive through the park, and see some of Africa's largest elephants and big cats.

### Week 26: Zambia, Malawi

Entering **Zambia**, we reach the **Victoria Falls**, where the **Zambezi River** plunges 100 metres down a mile wide chasm, creating one of the most incredible natural wonders of the world. The local name for the Falls is 'Mosi-oa-Tunya' which means 'the smoke that thunders' and you'll soon find out why. When the river is in full flow, the falling water causes a huge roar and sends a cloud of spray up to 500 metres into the air.

We stay near Livingstone beside the Zambezi and above Victoria Falls, for a few days, as there is so much to see and do. Adventure activities abound - you can bungee jump, white water raft, take a Microlite flight above the falls, sky-dive and go game-viewing on horse back. More sedate excursions include canoeing, light aircraft or helicopter flights over the falls, and the sunset cruise on the Zambezi. Of course, the falls themselves are the main attraction and you can walk through the rain forest along the cliff opposite for an excellent view.

Crossing the border into **Malawi**, we soon reach the shores of its huge lake. The campsites and small resorts along **Lake Malawi** offer sandy beaches, swimming and snorkelling, water skiing and walking in the surrounding countryside. You will also find markets selling beautifully carved Malawi chairs, tables and other souvenirs.

### Week 27 - 29: Tanzania, Kenya

Heading north through **Tanzania**, our route takes us through **Mikumi National Park** where we may well see **giraffe** or pygmy **elephants** grazing along the roadside. At **Dar es Salaam** on the **Indian Ocean** coast, we can cross to **Zanzibar Island**. Here is the old stone capital of the **Omani Sultanate** and away from the town are **stunning beaches**, and World Heritage Listed buildings, forests and ruins. You can take a spice tour of the island, go diving, swimming with dolphins or visit remote islands by the traditional **dhow boats**. Heading inland we pass Africa's highest peak, that of **Mt Kilimanjaro**. From **Arusha** we hire Landrovers to visit the **Ngorongoro Crater & Serengeti National Park**, which has the heaviest concentration of plains game found all over **East Africa**. From **Tanzania** we cross in **Kenya** the **Athi Plains**, passing **gazelle**, **giraffe** and troops of **baboons** on our way to **Nairobi**.

### Week 30 - 31: Uganda, Kenya

Leaving **Nairobi** we pass the dramatic landscape of the **Rift Valley** to the highlands of **Kenya**. Crossing the border at **Malaba** we drive through rain forests and tea and sugar plantations to **Uganda's** capital, **Kampala**. Crossing the **equator** we camp on the shores of **Lake Bunyonyi**, the deepest **crater lake** in **Uganda**. We climb through lush terraced hills to **Kisoro**, from here we trek the **famed mountain gorillas** or you could visit **Mgahinga National Park** for a day hike up a **volcano** or a guided nature trail. We meander back to **Lake Bunyonyi** to relax, canoe, mountain bike and swim.

In the modern bustling city of **Kampala** you may wish to visit the **National Museum**, the **Kasubi Tombs** of the **Buganda people**. Crossing the **Owen Falls** dam we arrive at **Jinja** on the shores of **Lake Victoria**. Spend an action-filled day **white water rafting** down the **Nile**, bungee jump, fish on **Lake Victoria**, take a guided village walk; or give up a day of your holiday to volunteer for the local community education project.

Returning to **Kenya** and **Nakuru Town**, the capital of the **Rift Valley** Province, we stay at **Kembu Camp** a working farm. We spend a full day at **Lake Nakuru**, viewing game in a park famous for its **soda lake** surrounded by thousands, sometimes millions of **pink flamingoes**. We move on to camp on the shores of **Lake Naivasha** where **hippos** come to graze in the evenings.

Close by is **Hell's Gate National Park** and **Elsamere**, once the home of **Joy Adamson** and Elsa the lion of '**Born Free**' fame. From here we return to **Nairobi** with the chance to feast at the renowned **Carnivores Game Restaurant**.

## Nairobi to Istanbul 12 Weeks

### Week 1 - 2: Kenya

We visit **Samburu Park** & the base of **Mount Kenya**. And continue north through the Northern Frontier District of Kenya, a restricted area; semi arid with a spectacular diversity of people, wild game on the road side and a pleasant dry climate

### Week 3 - 4: Ethiopia

We enter **Ethiopia** and we climb the mountains into the highlands and follow the **Rift Valley Lakes** to **Addis Ababa**. Take boats to visit **Bahir Dar Monasteries** on islands on **Lake Tana** the source of the **Blue Nile**, with hippos and crocs at the outflow of the river. **Tissisat Falls** is the source of the Blue Nile. We visit **Gondar**; a city of castles and churches. In the **Simien Mountains** you can horse trek and see grazing **Gelada Baboons**. Then on to **Axum**, the home of the Queen of Sheba and King Solomon.

### Week 5 - 6: Sudan

We pass the **Gezira** cotton region to **Kassala** a market town overlooked by **Sugar Loaf Mountains** In **Khartoum** where the **Blue & White Nile** join, watch dervish dancing or even join in the **Nubian** wrestling - safer just to watch. We visit the **Pharonic Pyramids** of **Meroe** in an un-spoilt, little visited desert setting. We drive across the **Nubian Desert** sands through friendly villages on the **Nile**. From **Wadi Halfa** we take a ferry across **Lake Nasser** to **Aswan** in **Egypt**

### Week 7 - 8: Egypt - Cairo - Pyramids & Sphinx.

In **Aswan** we visit the High Dam & **Philae Island Temple**. **Luxor**, we visit **Karnak Temple** the **Colossi of Memnon & Valley of the Kings & Tutankhamen's Tomb** on donkeys. From **Luxor**, we take the overnight train to **Cairo** where we spent a few days to look at the great pyramids in **Giza** and the immense collections of the **Cairo Museum**.

### Week 9 - 10: Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon

Back on the train to **Luxor** to collect the truck then it's up through **Hurghada** and across the **Sinai Peninsular** to **Dahab** and a few days to relax on the beach of the **Red Sea**. This is one of the best places to go scuba diving in the world. From there it's an overnight ferry to **Jordan** and into **Wadi Rum**, and memories from '**Lawrence of Arabia**' then a quick dip in the **Dead Sea** before heading up to **Petra**, then across the border to **Syria**. Here we see **crusader castles** and the myriad of things to buy in the many **souks** of **Damascus** and **Aleppo**. From **Damascus** we also spend a day in **Lebanon**, a chance to see **Baalbeck Ruins**, the **Temple of Jupiter**, the **Peace Memorial** and then onto **Beirut**.

### Week 11 - 12: Syria, Turkey

Heading out of **Aleppo** and leaving **Syria**, we enter **Turkey** with it's olive groves and sweet baklava. Heading into **Cappadocia** we visit the fairy tale land carved by the weather into the volcanic ash. Try a **Turkish bath** and some **belly dancing** whilst you're here. Then to **Olympus** to visit the **Chimera Eternal flame** and the **Turquoise Coast** at **Kas**. It's now off past the limestone curtain of **Pamukkale** and to **Selcuk** and the ancient city of **Ephesus**, before we spot the wooden horse at **Troy**. From here we cross to **Europe** and stop at **Gallipoli** to pay our respects,

before ending the trip in **Istanbul**, not **Constantinople**! From Istanbul the adventures can catch the Orient Express back tot London.

**Africa is an unpredictable continent. We do not have a fixed itinerary so please treat the information given as a guideline only. Although our information is written in good faith at the time of printing, our route may vary at any time due to weather, politics or road conditions.**

Of all the trips we run this is the most likely to have a change of route due to local conditions and visa requirements.

**Important:** Before you travel please check your **Tour Voucher** and **Arrival Information** for the latest joining instructions. This will be sent to you upon receipt of final payment.

**All itineraries are subject to change without prior notice.**