AFRICA A–Z with ENCOUNTER OVERLAND

LONDON to CAPETOWN
(or vice versa)
26 weeks 17,000 miles
(27,500kms)

EUROPE, MOROCCO, WESTERN SAHARA, MAURITANIA, MALI, BURKINA FASO, NIGER, NIGERIA, CAMEROUN, CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC, ZAIRE, UGANDA, TANZANIA, KENYA, MALAWI, ZAMBIA, BOTSWANA, NAMIBIA, SOUTH AFRICA

ITINERARY GUIDELINE

LONDON–CAPETOWN

Week 1: Transit through France & Spain to Madrid, the Costa del Sol & ferry across Straits of Gibraltar.

Weeks 2 & 3: Morocco—Rabat, Fez & the Atlas Mountains to Todra Gorge & Marrakech. The Atlantic coast into Western Sahara, to Layoune & Dakhla.

Weeks 4 & 5: Desert tracks to Mauritania. Nouakchott, the capital, inland across southern Sahara to oasis villages & Bamako in Mali. Alongside Niger river to Djenne & Mopti.

Weeks 6 & 7: Cliff villages of the Dogon country. Burkina Faso, Mossi tribal lands to Ouagadougou, forest & savannah country to Niger. Niamey on the Niger river, vast scrublands of the Sahel to Nigeria & Kano's great market.

Weeks 8-10: Cameroun, highland villages & volcanoes of the Kapsiki Mountains. South into rivers & jungles of Central Africa. Elephants, antelope & pygmy settlements of Dzanca Sancha National Park, to Bangui.

Weeks 11 & 12: Ferry across Ubangi river to Zaire—jungle villages & river crossings to Kisangani on the Zaire river. Pygmies of the tall Ituri forest.

Weeks 13 & 14: Through Ruwenzori Mountains to Uganda. Murchison Falls & the junction of the Niles, wildlife of Queen Elizabeth National Park. Buganda tribal lands to Kampala & Lake Victoria.

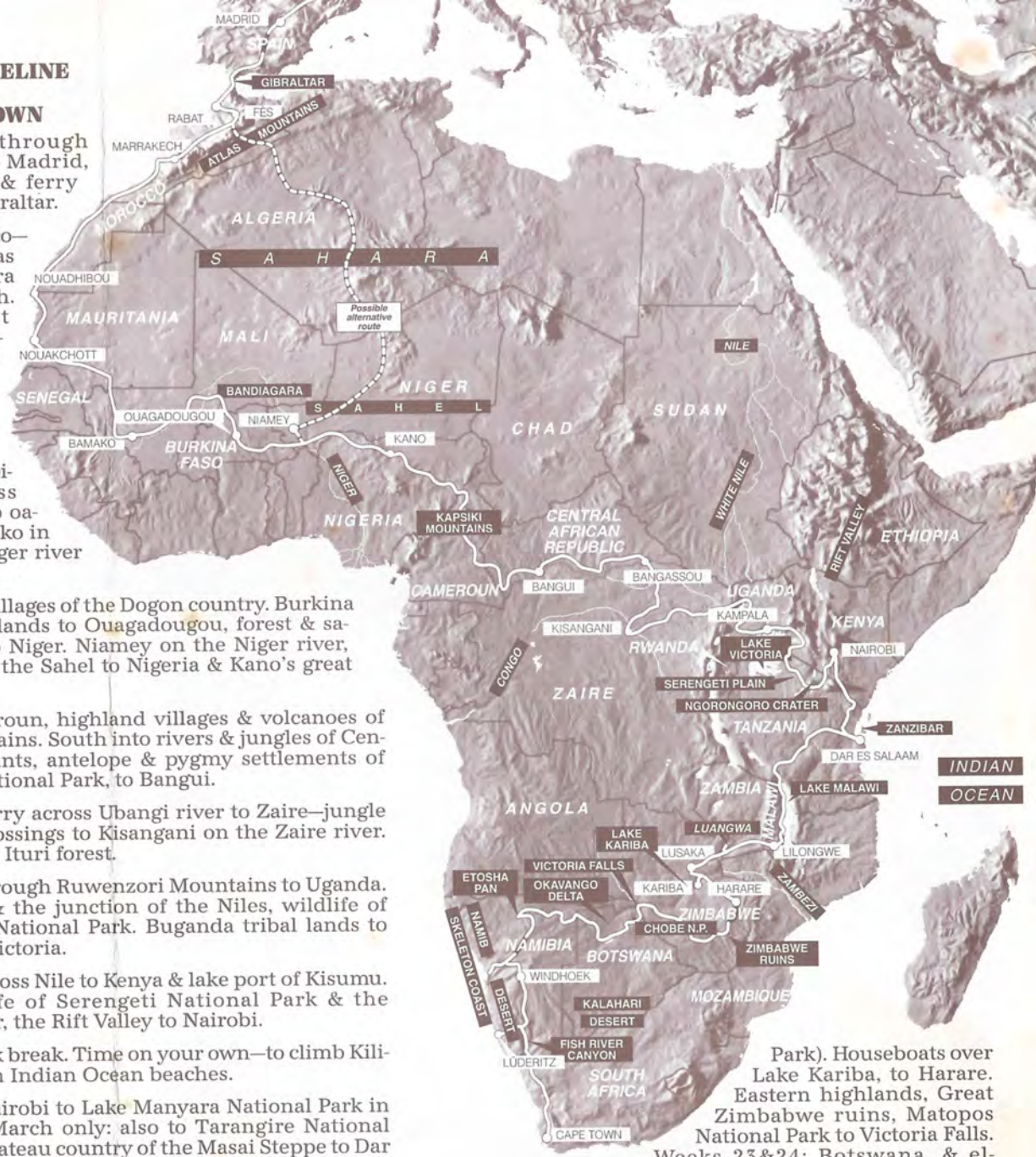
Weeks 15 & 16: Across Nile to Kenya & lake port of Kisumu. Tanzania, wildlife of Serengeti National Park & the Ngorongoro Crater, the Rift Valley to Nairobi.

Week 17: One week break. Time on your own—to climb Kilimanjaro or laze on Indian Ocean beaches.

Weeks 18 & 19: Nairobi to Lake Manyara National Park in Tanzania. (Nov—March only: also to Tarangire National Park), villages & plateau country of the Masai Steppe to Dar es Salaam. Bush & hills of southern Tanzania to Lake Malawi.

Weeks 20-22: Cool Nyika highlands—wildlife & hiking trails. Long lake shores to beaches & fishing villages. Into Zambia (April—Oct only: a foot safari in Luangwa Valley National Park). Houseboats over Lake Kariba, to Harare. Eastern highlands, Great Zimbabwe ruins, Matopos National Park to Victoria Falls.

Weeks 23&24: Botswana, & elephant herds along the Zambezi. Wildlife of Chobe National Park to Maun on the inland Okavango Delta. Dugout canoes into delta. The Kalahari & bushman paintings of Tsodilo Hills. Namibia & tribal desert lands to Etosha National Park.



Weeks 25 & 26: South to sand dunes, desert caves & 16,000 yr old rock paintings, seal reserves & seabird colonies of the Skeleton Coast. Namib Desert to Luderitz, walls of the great Fish River Canyon, across Orange river to the southern cape.

ITINERARY GUIDELINE

CAPETOWN–LONDON

Weeks 1 & 2: Cape Province to Orange River, Namibia & walls of the great Fish River Canyon to Luderitz & Namib Desert. Seal reserves & seabird colonies of the Skeleton Coast; sand dunes, caves & 16,000 year old rock paintings.

Weeks 3 & 4: Etosha National Park & tribal desert lands of the Kalahari in Botswana. Bushman paintings of the Tsodilo Hills & Maun on the inland Okavango Delta. Dugout canoes into delta. The wildlife of Chobe National Park, to Zimbabwe & elephant herds along the Zambezi.

Weeks 5-7: Victoria Falls, Matopos National Park, Great Zimbabwe Ruins & the eastern highlands to Harare. Houseboats over Lake Kariba, to Zambia (April—Oct only: a foot safari in Luangwa Valley National Park). Long shores of Lake Malawi to beaches & fishing villages, the wildlife & hiking trails of the cool Nyika highlands.

Weeks 8 & 9: Bush & hills of southern Tanzania to Dar es Salaam. Villages & plateau of the Masai Steppe. (Nov—March only: also to Tarangire National Park), Lake Manyara National Park & the Rift Valley to Nairobi.

Week 10: One week break. Time on your own—to climb Kilimanjaro or laze on Indian Ocean beaches.

Weeks 11 & 12: Nairobi to Tanzania, wildlife of the Ngorongoro Crater & Serengeti National Park. Eastern shores of Lake Victoria back into Kenya & lake port of Kisumu. Uganda, across the Nile to Kampala.

Weeks 13 & 14: Buganda tribal lands to Queen Elizabeth National Park. Murchison Falls & the junction of the Niles, through the Ruwenzori Mountains to Zaire.

Weeks 15 & 16: Pygmies of the tall Ituri forest. Into the jungles of central Africa—to Kisangani on the Zaire river, forest villages & river crossings to the Ubangi river.

Weeks 17-19: Elephants, antelope & pygmy settlements of Dzanca Sancha National Park in Central African Republic. North to Cameroun, highland villages & volcanoes of the Kapsiki Mountains.

Weeks 20 & 21: Out of the jungles onto the vast savannah & scrublands of the Sahel. Nigeria & Kano's great market, Niamey on the Niger river, & Mossi tribal lands to Ouagadougou—small capital of Burkina Faso. To Mali & cliff villages of the Dogon country.

Weeks 22 & 23: Mopti & Djenne & alongside Niger river to Bamako. Across the southern Sahara, oasis settlements to Nouakchott, Mauritania's capital on the dry shores of the Atlantic.

Weeks 24 & 25: Desert tracks into Western Sahara & the Atlantic coast to Morocco. Marrakech, the Todra Gorge & Atlas Mountains to Fez.

Week 26: Ferry across Straits of Gibraltar to Spain & the Costa del Sol. Transit through Europe—to Madrid & the Pyrenees, through France to the English Channel & London.

PLEASE NOTE

The above is intended as a guide only and to indicate a typical itinerary and its highlights. While our intention is to adhere to this, it should be understood that group interests and wishes together with the constraints of weather, road conditions and local restrictions can alter our exact route, its activities and timings.

DELAYS OR FORCED ALTERNATIVE ROUTES

The possibility of some delay en route is planned into this expedition and we usually arrive on time. But, by the very nature of transcontinental travel in Africa, it should be recognised that longer delays outside our control can still happen. It is suggested that you do not make any firm commitments within 8 days of the scheduled end date of any expedition that departs from Capetown. (Departures from London are expected to arrive on time in Capetown due to the easier travelling conditions of East & Southern Africa during the latter part of the expedition). If we are delayed en route, no additional payments to Encounter Overland will be asked of you.

Major forced changes to our expeditions are unusual in Africa. When they do happen it is because of a border closure or civil insurrection making it impossible or imprudent to enter a particular country or region. In the worst of cases this could involve an overflight of the affected area. If this were to happen, Encounter Overland would meet the first US$300 per person of the fare. Should more than this be needed, a contribution from you of up to (but not exceeding) US$300 would be required. Any further amount beyond this would again be met by Encounter Overland.

HIGHLIGHTS & ROUTE

EUROPE & NORTH AFRICA

Our crossing of Europe is a straight transit toward North Africa. From London to France, across the Loire to the wine growing regions of Bordeaux and the lowlands of Aquitaine to the Pyrenees & Spain. Madrid, the hills of Castile & Andalusia to Granada, the Sierra Nevada to the Mediterranean and Algeciras. But, depending on daylight travelling hours and weather conditions, there are full travelling days through France into Spain with overnight stops in Madrid, Granada & the Costa del Sol. Ferry (1 hour) across the Straits of Gibraltar to the Spanish North African territory of Ceuta, and Morocco. To the capital Rabat and royal Fez, where slim minarets and Moorish palaces rise above Africa's greatest medina. In a staggering maze of narrow alleys, merchants sell intricate hammered brass & copper, fabulous carpets and hand-tooled leather. Mule trains crowd the passageways between stalls of vegetables & spices and all of life's necessities.

THE DESERTS

Over the Atlas Mountain passes (7,500ft/2,300m) the fertile land becomes twisted rock then level sands fading to a distant horizon. To the Todra Gorge, where road and river contest the space beneath sheer rock walls, and the Erg Chebbi—the great sea of dunes and silent shifting sands. Marrakech was the northern terminus on ancient trans-Saharan trade routes, and one of the most important artistic centres of the Islamic world. Soukhs and squares are crowded with traders and storytellers, jugglers and itinerant artisans, camels & desert nomads.

South from the Atlas Mountains to the rocky, desert landscapes of Tan Tan and Western Sahara. To Layoun opposite the Canary Islands and Dakhla on a narrow peninsula in the Atlantic. It is an arid land of absolute

and untouched desert, of nomadic peoples and few settlements. To the empty beaches of Nouadhibou, desert wells and low tide tracks along the Atlantic sands to Nouakchott.

Inland across the southern Sahara, the sand & dunes of the Trarza & rock hills of the Massif de l'Assaba. Nema was on one of the most lucrative trans-Saharan trade routes from West Africa to Morocco & the Mediterranean. So great were the riches in gold, precious salt & slaves that the Almoravide dynasty in 11th century Morocco conquered and took control of this region from the Kings of Ghana & Senegal. Isolated and protected in the desert, even the 17th century Arab conquest brought little change. Slavery was officially abolished here only in 1980—and most likely the old ways continue in oases deep in the sands.

Bamako on the Niger river desert's southern fringes, and the subtle transfer to black Africa. Now market squares thrive with life and activity, skilled silversmiths hammer and shape distinctive ornaments and trinkets, there are swordmakers and seamsters, weavers and leather pouchmakers and all manner of purveyors of the improbable. This was the centre of the Songhai and Malinke empires, great mediaeval kingdoms that controlled the movement of all trade throughout West Africa. The Niger river was their artery of life and communication.

Upstream lie the islands and waterways of Mopti in the Niger marshes, and the enormous sand and mud built mosque at Djenne. Further, in the protective cliffs of the Bandiagara Escarpment are the people of the Dogon who, resisting the inroads of Islam from their stronger neighbours, kept faithfully to their old beliefs so that today their villages and art are a mirrored reflection of Africa 2,000 years ago.

To Burkina Faso & the colourful markets of Bobo-Dioulasso. Across the branches & tributaries of the Volta rivers to Ougadougou, the savannah and cattle lands to Niamey in Niger and Kano, Nigeria's city of the north, the great crossroads of trade between the desert lands and the West African kingdoms.

THE JUNGLES

Across northern Nigeria and south into Cameroun the drumbeat of Africa's heart grows stronger as the countryside grows ripe and green. Different sights, different ways and the different sounds of nature instil themselves into the thread and weave of our daily life.

In the Kapsiki highlands of northern Cameroun the Kirdi peoples build their villages with tall, conical thatched roofs, pointing skywards to the volcanoes. Giant lava cores, all that is left of ice-age mountains and aeons of erosion, punctuate these beautiful hills.

All roads, like the rivers, lead south—into the lush, dank rainforests of Central Africa. The air is rich and humid, great trees arch overhead, and dappled light filters to forest floor where butterflies cluster in their thousands by sandy pools. The forest is never silent, the undergrowth flashes with the colour and call of brilliant birds, the upper branches dip to the excitement and screech of fleeing monkeys.

Deep in the jungles of the Central African Republic is the Dzanca Sancha National Park, home to the Baaka pygmies, to elephant, forest antelope and multi-coloured jungle bird species. Rarely seen, there is at least one known colony of lowland gorillas here.

The town of Bangui lies in a flame of luxuriant tropical vegetation along the wide Ubangi river. Few roads reach this small capital, the river is the natural lifeline. There are coffee and cotton plantations, red brick mission churches, French patisseries and market stalls piled with exotic tropical fruits.

We ferry across the river to north-east Zaire, to slow tracks through dense jungles and small riverside settlements remote from the centres of power and commerce. Simple ferries carry infrequent vehicles across the network of river crossings.

To Buta and Kisangani on the great Zaire river, and into the tall cover of the great Ituri forest where narrow paths tunnel the undergrowth to clearings and encampments of the Mbuti pygmies. At Epulu's research station we see the forest okapi, an oddity of ancestry and one of Africa's rarest animals.

The forests thin as we near the volcanic Ruwenzori ranges, the fabled 'Mountains of the Moon' that split the dense rainforests from the wide reaches of the East

African plains. In these hills the close humidity falls away, as wide horizons open to the cool clear air.

THE PLAINS

Across this mountain watershed is Uganda, and the great lakes that are headwaters to the Nile—the 4000 mile (6,500 km) course of the world's longest river. To Murchison Falls where the Victoria Nile is squeezed to a few metres of thundering width, plunging sheer into a narrow rock gorge. The absolute volume of water forced through such a tight space, and the ability to stand right at its edge, make the falls an unforgettable sight.

Across the equator in Queen Elizabeth National Park the 20mile/35km long Kazinga Channel connects Lakes Edward & George. Volcanic craters & baboon cliffs are home to Uganda kobs, waterbuck, buffalo, lion & hyena. By launch through the channel with hippo & elephant, pelican, stork & fish eagle along the banks. Farmlands of the Buganda tribes to Kampala & Entebbe.

Kenya into Tanzania and the wild eastern shores of Lake Victoria. Migrating herds of zebra and wildebeest in their thousands move with the seasons across the Serengeti grasslands—the world's greatest preserve of wildlife. The chances are excellent for frequent meetings with elephant & rhino, gazelle, giraffe, leopard, hippo and buffalo, lion & cheetah. Ochre robed Masai tribesmen armed with spear and shield roam just as freely—with allegiance neither to frontier nor distant government. There are unforgettable nights camped under spreading acacia trees, with the sounds and calls of the wild just beyond the flickering firelight.

At the eastern edge of the Serengeti is Olduvai Gorge where in 1959 the Leakeys discovered the 1.8 million year old skull and fossil fragments of Homo Habilis. The Ngorongoro Crater is 10 miles/16kms wide and almost sheer sided. From the rim we descend 2200ft/700m into the crater by Landrover. Every species of the plains are concentrated among the grasslands, woods, salt licks and lakes of this amazing natural sanctuary. Herds graze around small lakes, lion & cheetah watch from the shade of acacia trees. Across the Great Rift Valley that runs through Africa from Lake Malawi to Ethiopia. To Arusha & the road to Nairobi—the snow covered cone of Mt Kilimanjaro rising above the plains.

In Nairobi: One week's break under your own arrangements. See MIDWAY LAYOVER.

The shores of Tanzania's Lake Manyara National Park attract flamingos and flocks of aquatic birds; hippos & baboons. Here are the famous lions of Manyara—who have long adapted to climbing trees during the heat of the day to avoid ground level tsetse flies. (November—March only: the season when rains frequently close Luangwa Valley National Park in Zambia. We instead spend time in Tarangire National Park on the animal migration routes from the Masai Steppe to Manyara & the Serengeti).

To the Indian Ocean & Dar es Salaam. Time to relax on Kunduchi Beach or sail to Zanzibar (a daily hydrofoil service). Nyika National Park is at 6,500ft/2,000m in the cool highlands above Lake Malawi. There are no lion or elephant in these grasses & moorlands, and walking is allowed anywhere in the park. Trails lead to unobtrusive contact with grazing herds of zebra & eland, with good chances of spotting a leopard.

Lake Malawi is 360 miles/580 kms long, its shoreline dotted with small fishing communities & long beaches. (April—October only: Zambia's Luangwa Valley National Park is another of the few reserves in Africa to still allow safaris on foot. Its thorn scrub & forests support over a hundred species of mammals. All the great game species are here and stalking them at ground level is a different & thrilling outlook on Africa's wildlife).

ZAMBEZI & KALAHARI

To the Zambezi & houseboats across the waters of Lake Kariba. Tiger-fish, crocodile & animal life along the banks & islands. To Harare—exciting capital & heart of Zimbabwe. The eastern highlands (7,000ft/2,100m) are another world above the hot veldt & bush of southern Africa—a peaceful land of eucalyptus & pine forests, trout streams, warm springs & waterfalls.

To Mutare, south following the source of the Save River as it flows into Mozambique.

The incredible walls of Great Zimbabwe once held a city of 10,000, with power over all the southern continent & trading links to Egypt, Persia & India. Perfect, mortarless stone walls 40ft/11m high & 16ft/5m thick surround towers & royal compounds, with narrow passageways connecting the complex of enclosures. The wind-sculpted rocks & balancing boulders of Matopos National Park are perfect territory for baboons. Carefully guarded herds of white rhino slowly increase their numbers.

To Victoria Falls—where the mile wide (1.75 kms) Zambezi drops a sheer 350ft/110m. The volume of water dropping into the chasm is estimated to reach 5.5 million litres a minute, and the rising spray creates a brilliant rainforest around the falls. (Optional light aircraft flight over falls approx US$70, 1 day white-water rafting from below falls through the gorges approx US$100, July to Jan only).

Banks of the Zambezi & Chobe rivers to Chobe National Park. Herds of up to 500 elephant wander the northern park along the river banks. Behind in the grasses & Mopani forests is the highest concentrations of plains game anywhere in Africa. It is not unusual to have a variety of animals, small and very large, wandering through our bush camps at night. Chobe is known for its lion & elephant, hyena & rare packs of African hunting dog.

The Okavango river rises in Angola and never reaches the sea. Once into the flats of Botswana it spreads into a delta 100 miles/160kms wide before drying in the salt pans of the Kalahari. But the Okavango Delta is a natural paradise of green marshlands, clear waterways & wooded islands.

From the small town of Maun we travel the waterways by dugout canoe & on foot—to quiet islands, game trails and the Okavango's hundreds of species of birdlife. Beyond the delta the country becomes dry & harsh, the

Bushmanlands of the northern Kalahari. The Tsodilo Hills are rock islands rising abruptly from the desert, surrounded in sacred myth & legend to the Bushmen. Stone tools suggest habitation over 35,000 years ago, rock walls are covered in naturally coloured paintings of wild animals & cattle.

Namibia's Etosha Pans National Park first appears as a huge, flat & dust driven expanse of salt. Which it is. But round its edge are year-round springs that draw the region's magnificent wildlife. Springbok, black-maned lion, & elephant gather to drink. Oryx & sable walk the miraged salt flats & pools. The park's remote setting, its lack of development and the visibility of its species make Etosha one of the most memorable experiences of Africa. The Brandenberg Mountains appear in the distance as fierce red glowing lava domes. Here are incredible petrified trees, stark rock fingers and mysteries in 16,000 year old rock paintings.

Along the Skeleton Coast cooled by the chill Benguela current we find fur seal colonies & penguins of the south Atlantic. The German ways of old Swakopmund, the South African territorial enclave of Walvis Bay, shifting dunes and empty beaches at the ghost town of Luderitz—surrounded by the secrecy of the huge & forbidden Diamond Area. (Rumour has it there is enough rough diamond lying loose on the desert floor to virtually collapse the world market).

The long 100 mile/160 kms walls of the Fish River Canyon drop 1,900ft/570m to the river's course. Colours & shades change & merge in another of Africas' finest displays. Across the divide of the Orange river—to South Africa, the rugged mountains & sandstone formations of the Cedarberg wilderness, and Table Mountain standing high over Capetown and the southern tip of Africa.

GAME PARKS & RESERVES

Time spent in the major wildlife reserves & included in expedition cost is usually Dzanca Sancha (2 days), Queen Elizabeth (2 days), Serengeti (2 days), Ngorongoro Crater (1 day), Lake Manyara (1 day), Nyika (1 day), Tarangire (Nov—March: 1 day) or Luangwa Valley (April—Oct: 1 day), Matopos (1 day), Chobe (2 days) & Etosha (2 days).

GROUP SIZE & STAFF

21 max including EO staff. Plus local guides Fez, Dogon, Kano, Dzanga Sancha, Station de l'Epulu, Queen Elizabeth Park, Serengeti, Ngorongoro Crater, Tarangire or Luangwa Valley, Matopos & Okavango Delta.

PHYSICAL DEMANDS

Living a nomadic lifestyle for six months under basic conditions in Africa requires a flexible and adaptable approach, and cannot be recommended to many people over the ages of 45-50. Water for personal washing may need to be restricted in the Sahara and when it is in short supply.

INCLUDED IN EXPEDITION COST

Transport, food, camping equipment & supplies, local guides, camping fees, tolls, entrance fees & activities as detailed from published starting date of expedition until arrival in Capetown or London. There are no kitties or similar en route payment funds.

EXPEDITION COST DOES NOT COVER

Flights to/from Capetown/London, transfers to/from airport & airport taxes, vaccinations, visas, personal insurance, laundry, snacks, drinks, occasional lunches in major centres (minimal cost), personal clothing/equipment & items of a personal nature.

Some individual entry fees to museums/sights (minimal cost), and any individual options noted in Highlights & Route above (cost as noted). Accommodation & meals in Capetown/London before/after expedition.

EQUIPMENT SUPPLIED

Standard EO truck equipment including 2 person tents, campbeds, kitchen/dining tent, tables & stools, light, cooking equipment & utensils, mosquito nets, first aid kit.

WHAT YOU NEED TO BRING

A warm sleeping bag, a medium sized bag or backpack and a daypack. Personal clothing and strong footwear etc.

No specialised clothing or equipment is necessary and you probably already have most of what is needed. A complete suggested clothing list is included in our pre-departure information.

TRANSPORT
EO expedition truck, Landrovers in Ngorongoro Crater, on foot Nyika highlands & Luangwa valley (April–Oct only, day hike), dugout canoe in Okavango Delta; ferries across English Channel, Straits of Gibraltar & various small African rivers.

ACCOMMODATION
Houseboats on Lake Kariba (2 nights). Otherwise camping throughout. Equipped campsites in most of Europe and in major centres south of the Zambezi.

Occasional & basic campground facilities exist in some cities & centres of north, central & east Africa, usually extending to simple washing/showering & toilet arrangements only.

Otherwise open "bush" camping with no facilities other than standard EO truck equipment. (Your involvement is needed in camp setup, domestic & day to day routines etc).

MEALS, COOKING & FOOD
Camp cooked breakfasts & evening meals, picnic lunches. Expedition members are involved in daily fresh food shopping & cooking. (Fresh vegetables, fruit, meat where available, eggs, bread, cereals, cheese, preserves, supplemented by truck supplies of canned & dried goods in areas where fresh supplies are unavailable or severely limited. We frequently bake our own bread).

In a few larger cities where a day is spent in individual sightseeing or activities away from the truck, lunch will sometimes be at your own expense. The cost of these occasional lunches is minimal. Vegetarians usually have no great difficulty maintaining an adequate diet.

PASSPORTS & VISAS
You will need a passport that is valid for not less than 6 months after the end of the expedition, and which contains not less than 32 blank pages. Your passport should also be free of any evidence of having visited Israel.

Visa requirements and costs vary according to your nationality, and even then are subject to sudden change. Some visas need to be obtained before departure, others en route. EO or your agent can advise you of all the up to date visa requirements applicable to you, and their costs. We can also help you in obtaining any visas you may require before departure.

Visas en route are applied for as a group with the assistance of your leader/driver. This expedition crosses 18 African nations, most of which require visas for all or some of us!

INSURANCE & MEDICAL
Everyone must have individual personal travel insurance. Various policies are available, but they must include a minimum of £20,000 or US$30,000 for medical, hospital and additional expenses including emergency repatriation.
You will need to obtain vaccinations against Yellow Fever and Meningitis. Several other vaccinations are strongly recommended though not required by law for travel through Africa. Their up to date details are given in our pre-departure information. Malaria pills are supplied on the expedition.

MIDWAY LAYOVER
For 7 nights following our arrival in Nairobi. This time is at your own expense and under your own arrangements. (EO can of course help with accommodation and rates at our Nairobi hotel). You should budget £175/$260 for this week to cover hotels, food and incidentals. You can find as much or as little as you want to do in this time. Nairobi is an interesting city with plenty to do—National Museum, Nairobi National Park, Karen Blixen's house, Snake Park and Railway Museum, Bomas of Kenya—traditional dance and songs, cinemas, shopping along Kenyatta Avenue and city market. There are tropical beaches on the Indian Ocean at Malindi—1 day's bus or train from Nairobi, or the magic of Lamu Island—1 hour by air from Nairobi, or....

CLIMBING MT KILIMANJARO

The walking climb of Kilimanjaro (19,337ft/5,894m) is a challenging but very worthwhile experience not to be missed if you are fit, in the area, and have the inclination & time! The climb, including hotel in Moshi at start and end, takes 7 days/6 nights. A further travelling day should be allowed at each end to get between Nairobi & Moshi, just across the border in Tanzania at the base of the mountain. The cost of the climb including all government, hut, & entry fees, guide, porters, food, hotel & meals before & after the climb is approx. US$520. This is payable direct to the climb operators in Moshi on your arrival. The climb may be started on any day of the week. If you like, EO can make a confirmed reservation for you. (There is a reservation charge by EO of US$50 for this). In the peak periods of July—September and December—January reservations are usually necessary as only a limited number of people at a time are allowed on the mountain. If you think you might be interested, ask for our information dossier on Climbing Kilimanjaro.

PERSONAL SPENDING MONEY

To cover personal day to day expenditure en route—drinks, snacks, laundry, occasional lunches in major centres, optional activities, en route visa costs, some museum entry fees & souvenirs. Accommodation, food during the Midway Layover.

Ethnic crafts can be tempting, attractive and good value in Africa. Posting them, or getting them home may not be. Good buys can include Moroccan leatherwork, carpets, copper & brasswork; Saharan & Sahel jewellery & silver; West African masks, carvings & ceramics; Central African beads, musical instruments, cloth & tribal artifacts; East & southern African ebony & hardwood carvings, bracelets, baskets, weaving & jewellery. Many small 'treasures' need not cost much at all.

Credit cards are generally accepted only in a few of the larger cities. Apart from this, and your en route visas; EO has no hidden expenses, funds or kitties to surprise your spending money in Africa.

ARRIVING AND LEAVING

Departures from London

There will be a pre-departure meeting at our London offices at 6.00 pm two days before expedition departure date.

Departures from Capetown

We recommend that you arrive in Capetown a couple of days before expedition departure date to allow yourself time to acclimatise and get over intercontinental flights.

There will be a pre-departure meeting at our Capetown hotel at 6.00pm two days before the expedition departure date. This meeting is also your latest arrival time.

If you are arriving early, Capetown is an interesting city in an outstanding setting: Museums, gardens & galleries, Table Mountain & Cable Way, Groot Constantia & wineries, False Bay & beaches, Cape Nature Reserve, theatre.

Reservations at our Capetown hotel before departure may be made through EO, with payment by you directly to hotel on arrival.

Even though serious delays en route are unlikely, we would prefer that you not have any firm commitments for up to 8 days after scheduled expedition completion date in London. (Expeditions ending in Capetown are expected to arrive on time).

COMBINATIONS & CONNECTING PROJECTS

"Africa A-Z" is also a combination of " Safari South" (Capetown—Nairobi or v.v.) and the "Great Safari" (Nairobi—London or v.v.). The "Great Safari" section can also be part of the "Great Overland Encounter" (Kathmandu—Nairobi—London or v.v.) . You may therefore be travelling with some group members who are leaving or joining the expedition in Nairobi.

INTERESTING READING

A Good Man in Africa (William Boyd), Things Fall Apart (Chinua Achebe), Cry of the Kalahari (Mark & Delia Owens). A full list of recommended reading in history, guidebooks and fiction is given in our pre-departure information.

SPECIFIC DETAILS

On Mailing Lists for receiving letters from home, the best ways to organise & carry your spending money, clothing lists etc are all contained in our pre-departure information.

CLIMATE

Western Sahara, Mauritania & Mali to Niger & Nigeria. Warm Winters with sandstorms, Hot Summers with rain in south. Hotter & drier inland.

DESERT & SAHEL

		JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
CELSIUS	High	29	31	32	32	34	33	32	32	34	33	32	28
Daily Average	Low	14	15	17	18	21	23	23	24	24	22	18	13
FAHRENHEIT	High	85	87	89	90	93	92	89	90	93	91	89	83
Daily Average	Low	57	59	63	64	69	73	74	75	75	71	65	56
Relative Humidity		31%	30%	30%	32%	35%	48%	63%	69%	59%	41%	35%	34%
Rainfall in mm		0	3	0	0	0	3	13	104	23	10	3	0

Burkina Faso, Cameroun, Central African Republic & Zaire. Hot, wet & humid.

RAINFOREST

		JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
CELSIUS	High	31	31	31	31	31	30	29	28	29	30	29	30
Daily Average	Low	21	21	21	21	21	19	20	20	20	20	20	20
FAHRENHEIT	High	88	88	88	88	87	86	84	83	85	86	85	86
Daily Average	Low	69	69	69	70	69	69	67	68	68	68	68	68
Relative Humidity		66%	63%	64%	68%	69%	71%	72%	75%	69%	70%	67%	60%
Rainfall in mm		53	84	178	158	137	114	132	165	183	218	198	84

Uganda, inland Kenya & Tanzania, Malawi. Hot days, warm nights. 'Short Rains' Nov/Dec. 'Long Rains' March-May. (Hot & humid on coast).

PLAINS

		JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
CELSIUS	High	28	28	27	26	25	25	25	25	27	27	27	27
Daily Average	Low	18	18	18	18	17	17	17	16	17	17	17	17
FAHRENHEIT	High	83	82	81	79	78	77	77	78	80	81	80	80
Daily Average	Low	65	65	64	64	63	63	62	61	62	63	63	63
Relative Humidity		54%	56%	62%	69%	72%	69%	66%	66%	65%	64%	63%	62%
Rainfall in mm		46	61	130	175	147	74	46	86	91	97	122	99

Southern Zambia, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Namibia & Cape Province. Summer (Nov-Feb): Hot days/ cool nights, humid in Okavango Delta. Winter (May-Aug): Warm days/cold nights. Rainfall decreasing to west, almost none in Namib Desert.

SOUTH AFRICA

		JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
CELSIUS	High	31	30	29	28	26	23	24	26	30	32	32	31
Daily Average	Low	18	18	16	13	9	5	5	7	12	16	18	18
FAHRENHEIT	High	88	86	85	83	79	74	75	79	86	90	89	88
Daily Average	Low	65	64	61	56	48	41	41	45	54	61	64	65
Relative Humidity		51%	52%	48%	39%	33%	33%	29%	26%	24%	26%	41%	49%
Rainfall in mm		107	79	71	18	5	3	0	0	0	23	56	86

AGENT'S STAMP

OTHER COSTS/EXPENSES

Return flights .....

Visas .....

Vaccinations .....

Insurance .....

Personal spending money .....

TOTAL _____

EUROPE

France & Spain to Mediterranean

Cold Winters (Dec—March): Average Highs 8°C/47°F, Lows -2°C/29°F.

Warm Summers (Jun—Oct) : Average Highs 15°C/77°F, Lows 9°C/50°F

Year round rainfall, 38-76 mms per month