

Air Safari

Namibia, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Tanzania, Kenya

Day 1 and 2

Arrive in Windhoek, Namibia. Fly directly to Sossusvlei, for the Red Dunes.

Kwessi Dunes Lodge, 2 nights



Kwessi Lodge immerses you in NamibRand's vast, ochre desert: dunes, oryx silhouettes, and horizons without fences. Sleep in thatched, canvas suites with a star-gazing bed; wake to pink dawns and coffee on your deck. Walk, ride, or quad-bike across shimmering plains, then dine under galaxies blazing in pristine, ink-black skies.

Day 3 and 4: Skeleton Coast, oldest desert on the Planet, Shipwreck Lodge



Shipwreck Lodge rises from the Skeleton Coast like artful flotsam. Angular timber cabins echo ship ribs, framing Atlantic fog, dunes and roaming desert-adapted lion, elephant, and brown hyena. Drive along bleached beaches, slide down dunes, picnic in dry riverbeds; return to crackling fires, cuisine, and wind-lulled sleep beneath star-salt skies.

Day 5 and 6: from the desert to the great Chobe River, for an unusual river boat safari, aboard Chobe Princess



A totally unusual safari: Chobe Princess drifts along the Chobe River's wild edge. The water-level game viewing with elephants crossing, hippos grumbling, and fish eagles calling is breath-taking. We cruise by day; board tender boats for close-up sightings, birding, or tigerfish catch-and-release. Sundowners paint the water gold; we will dine under stars, then sleep lulled by current in calm, in elegant cabins.

Day 7 and 8: Zimbabwe, Mana Pools, Tembo Plains camp, 2 nights



Tembo Plains, in Zimbabwe's Sapi Reserve beside Mana Pools, blends refined canvas-and-stone suites (plunge pools, private decks) with raw wilderness. Track lions and wild dogs, canoe the Zambezi, walk ancient floodplains, photograph elephants at golden hour. Evenings bring fireside dining, fine wines, and night sounds drifting through elegant, artful design. This is a very special safari place!

From the Zambezi in Zimbabwe to the pristine and magical waters of the Indian Ocean in Mozambique.

Day 9, 10 and 11: Sussurro, Nhamabue Peninsula, Mozambique

Sussurro is slow living on a serene tidal lagoon: barefoot, breeze-cooled suites crafted from timber, thatch, and locally made textiles. Days drift between dhow sailing, mangrove kayaking, sandbar picnics, and beachcombing empty shores; evenings bring wood-fired seafood, natural wines, and candlelit silence. Solar power, rainwater, and artisanal detail anchor a restorative, design-led retreat where time stretches and the ocean's rhythms reset you.



From Mozambique to Tanzania, in a beautiful private Island, Fanjove

Day 12, 13 and 14, Fanjove Island, Tanzania



Fanjove is a tiny private island in Tanzania's Songo Songo archipelago: palm-fringed beaches, turquoise shallows, and a historic lighthouse. Castaway bandas open to sea breeze; snorkel reefs with turtles and dolphins, kayak at sunrise, sail a dhow at sunset. No crowds, no cars—just barefoot quiet and starlit, tide-timed days—unhurried always.

The diving is superb, and so ins the snorkeling, but the most fulfilling thing is the unmatched privacy.



Day 15 and 16: Hemingways's Green Hills of Africa

With a breathtaking flight along the Indian Ocean coast, flying above endless beaches and wind-carved cliffs, we will return to Luca's and Antonella's home: landing among the legendary *Green Hills of Africa*.



Nestled at the foot of Mount Kilimanjaro, **Campi ya Kanzi** is our Maasai home in the Chyulu Hills, a sanctuary where wilderness, culture, and elegance meet.

For two nights, we will immerse ourselves in this pristine ecosystem, celebrated by Hemingway as the *Green Hills of Africa*.

Here, we will hike through the mystical **cloud forest**, a realm of giant trees, orchids, and rare birds, where every step reveals the hidden secrets of this ancient landscape.

Evenings will be crowned with unforgettable **sundowners at Lookout Hills**, as the sun sets in a blaze of colors behind the Kilimanjaro skyline, the plains of Tsavo stretching endlessly below us.

Campi ya Kanzi is more than a lodge: it is a living bond with the Maasai community, a place where conservation and culture unite to protect one of Africa's last great wildernesses.



Day 17 and 18: Chyulu Club – Between Tsavo and Amboseli

Just a short game drive away lies **Chyulu Club**, a private oasis set in the heart of a Maasai conservancy. For two nights, we will embrace its blend of contemporary elegance and deep wilderness.

From here, we will set off on two extraordinary full-day excursions:

- To **Tsavo**, Kenya's largest national park, a land of lava flows, red elephants, and immense horizons, where wilderness stretches as far as the eye can see.
- To **Amboseli**, world-famous for its vast herds of elephants roaming beneath the snow-capped crown of Kilimanjaro, offering some of Africa's most iconic wildlife encounters.



Chyulu Club is a retreat of privacy and adventure, where every day brings a new journey, and every night ends under a canopy of stars brighter than anywhere else on earth.



Day 19: fly back home

We will fly to Nairobi and prepare for the flight home.

In this incredible air safari we will have crossed five African countries, flying above crystal-clear lakes, mighty rivers, endless savannas, silent deserts, and infinite oceans.

We will have encountered an extraordinary variety of wildlife, tribes, cultures, and landscapes that change like in an ancient poem.

It will have been an epic and unrepeatable safari, a journey that will remain etched in our memory and our hearts for the rest of our lives. A return not only to a place, but to the very essence of Africa that welcomed us, moved us, transformed us.

Kenya

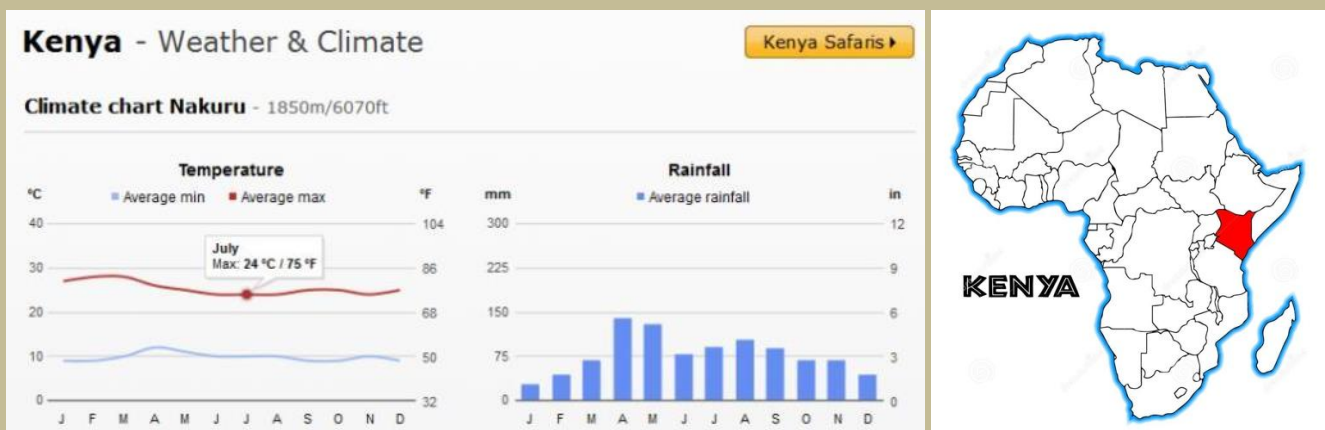
Kenya is the gateway to safari, a land where the rhythm of wildlife and the majesty of landscapes combine to define the essence of Africa. From the golden plains of the Masai Mara to the snow-capped peaks of Mount Kenya, from the arid deserts of the north to the emerald forests of the Chyulu Hills, the country holds a staggering variety of ecosystems within its borders.

The Rift Valley has revealed some of the earliest traces of humankind, making Kenya not only a land of wildlife, but also of our deepest origins. Over centuries, the Swahili traders of the coast and the proud Maasai warriors of the savannas have added to a rich cultural tapestry that still endures today.

Colonized by Britain at the end of the 19th century, Kenya achieved independence in 1963 under the leadership of Jomo Kenyatta, becoming a symbol of African freedom and resilience. Today, it stands as one of the continent's most vibrant nations, balancing progress with the preservation of ancient traditions.

Its national parks and reserves protect an extraordinary wealth of wildlife: elephants, lions, leopards, and the vast herds of the Great Migration. Along its coastline, white beaches and coral reefs offer a different but equally captivating beauty.

Above all, Kenya is a land of harmony and contrast — where wilderness, culture, and community meet, and where the spirit of Africa welcomes every traveler with open arms.



Tanzania

It is believed that the origin of modern man lies in the Rift Valley region of East Africa.

In Tanzania, archaeologists have discovered not only fossil remains of hominids but also the oldest known human settlements on the continent.

Around the first millennium A.D., the region was populated by Bantu-speaking communities, migrated from the west and north.

On the coast, the Arabs founded Kilwa around 800 A.D., while the Persians settled in Pemba and Zanzibar.

In the 1200s, from the fusion between Africans, Arabs, and Persians, a new and lasting culture was born: the Swahili civilization.

In 1498, the great explorer Vasco da Gama sailed along this coast, opening the way to Portuguese dominance.

At the beginning of the 1700s, Zanzibar became an important center of the slave trade under the

control of the Arabs of Oman.

At the end of the 19th century, the German explorer Carl Peters began the colonial expansion that led to the creation of German East Africa, later transformed, after the First World War, into the British Mandate of Tanganyika.

The struggle for independence culminated in the 1950s under the leadership of Julius Nyerere and the Tanganyika African National Union (TANU).

Tanganyika obtained independence in 1961, followed by Zanzibar in 1963.

On April 26, 1964, the two territories united to form the United Republic of Tanzania.

Under Nyerere's leadership, Tanzania adopted *Ujamaa*, a model of African socialism based on agricultural cooperation, before moving towards multiparty democracy in 1992.

Today, Tanzania hosts some of Africa's most extraordinary natural spectacles.

The endless savannas of the Serengeti offer close encounters with great African wildlife, while the nearby Ngorongoro Crater teems with lions, leopards, elephants, and even the rare black rhino.

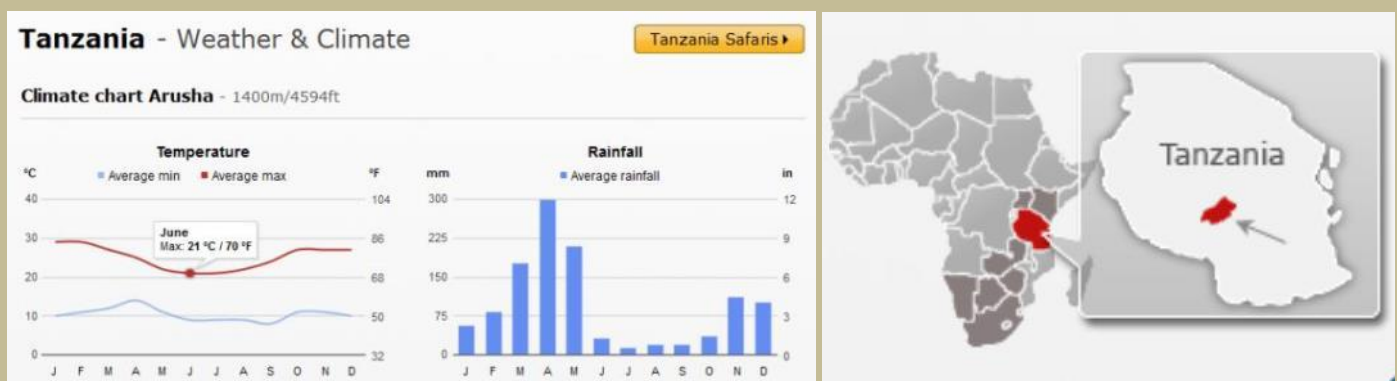
The vast Selous Reserve, larger than Switzerland, invites immersion into still primeval nature.

Dominating the horizon is the iconic Mount Kilimanjaro, the continent's highest peak at 5,895 meters. Climbing it, which takes about a week, is one of Africa's most fascinating and memorable challenges.

Tanzania is also a vibrant cultural mosaic, with more than 120 ethnic groups, from the Swahili coastal villages to the proud Maasai, guardians of ancient traditions.

Along the Swahili Coast, echoes of ancient trade routes still resound. Spices, jewels, and centuries-old stories passed here, leaving as heritage coral palaces, ancient mosques, and a language, Swahili, that today unites all of East Africa.

Tanzania remains a place where the roots of humanity, the majesty of nature, and cultural richness intertwine in an experience that remains forever engraved in the soul.



Malawi

The Republic of Malawi, located in southeastern Africa, was formerly known as Nyasaland.

It borders Zambia, Tanzania, and Mozambique, covers about 118,500 km², and has a population of nearly 14 million.

Initially colonized by Bantu tribes around the 10th century, Malawi has a long and fascinating history. In 1891 the area was occupied by British colonial powers and in 1953 became part of the Central African Federation, a semi-independence union bringing together Malawi, Zambia, and Zimbabwe (then Rhodesia). The federation was dissolved in 1963 and Malawi gained independence, adopting its current name in 1964.

Before the Bantu migrations, the area was inhabited by small groups of hunter-gatherers. Around 1500, Bantu populations founded a vast kingdom, but already at the beginning of the following century, trade and alliances with the Portuguese began to alter the local balance. By 1700, the ancient empire had fragmented into independent tribes.

In 1859, British explorer and missionary David Livingstone reached Lake Nyasa (today Lake Malawi) for the first time, finding the former Maravi Empire already collapsed under invasions. This was followed by the establishment of several religious missions and, in 1889, the proclamation of a British protectorate over the Shire Highlands, south of the lake. In 1907 the protectorate was renamed Nyasaland, a name maintained until the end of colonial rule.

In 1944 the Nyasaland African Congress was founded and a few years later the country entered the Central African Federation with Northern and Southern Rhodesia. The federation lasted until 1963; in 1964 Nyasaland officially became independent Malawi.

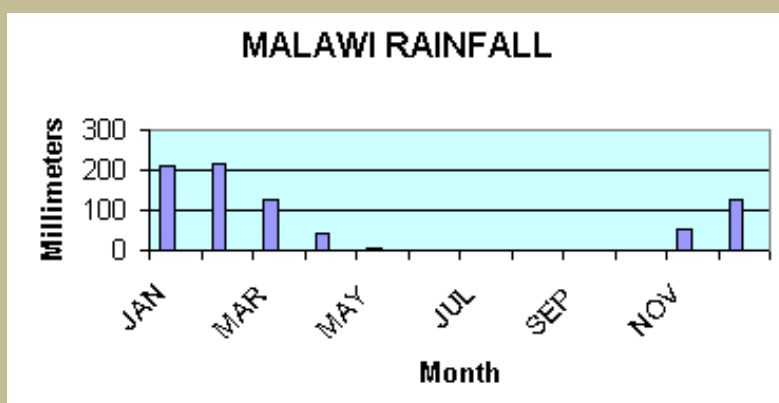
With the new constitution, Malawi was transformed in 1966 into a one-party state under the Malawi Congress Party (MCP). A referendum in 1993 restored the country to multiparty democracy. Later, Joyce Banda became Malawi's first female president, leading a democratic government.

Today, Malawi is considered one of the least developed countries in the world, with an economy largely dependent on agriculture. The government relies heavily on foreign aid, which has declined in the past twelve years, making the challenges of economic expansion, improved health services, and full financial independence even more complex.

In 2014, Lonely Planet included Malawi among the 10 must-see destinations. The great attraction of the country is undoubtedly Lake Malawi: a shimmering blade of crystal-clear water stretching about 500 km along the eastern border, separating it from Mozambique and Tanzania's wild, mountainous coasts. Isolated villages dot the northern shores of the lake, while Liwonde National Park lies in the south, offering unspoiled landscapes and extraordinary sightings.

With more than 500 species of fish inhabiting its waters, Lake Malawi offers ideal conditions for world-class freshwater snorkeling and diving.

The name Malawi derives from the ancient Maravi Empire, founded by the Nyanja people, who still inhabit this land of rare beauty.



Zambia

Zambia extends largely over a vast plateau at about 1,800 meters above sea level and boasts major rivers such as the Zambezi, Kafue, and Luangwa — as well as one of the world's most spectacular waterfalls: Victoria Falls, shared with neighboring Zimbabwe.

Much of the country enjoys a mild, pleasant climate, while river valleys are hotter and more humid; the far north becomes tropical along the shores of Lake Tanganyika, one of Zambia's ten great lakes.

While Lusaka is the administrative capital, Livingstone, just 10 kilometers from the falls, is famous among travelers as the adventure capital, offering thrilling adrenaline activities on the Zambezi and around the falls themselves.

Zambia offers extraordinary wildlife diversity, both in terms of species and numbers, and is home to some of the wildest and most remote natural areas of the continent. In the Luangwa you find endemic subspecies of giraffes and wildebeest, while enormous herds of black lechwe populate the Bangweulu floodplains.

The birdlife is exceptionally rich, with about 740 recorded species, including many rare ones: Zambia represents, for example, the southernmost range of the extraordinary African shoebill, one of the most coveted species among birdwatching enthusiasts.

It was in Zambia that the concept of walking safaris was born, still considered the best way to explore the extraordinary flora and fauna of its 19 national parks.

To all this is added the adrenaline of activities on the Zambezi: rafting, bungee jumping, abseiling, and canoeing, making Zambia a complete destination for those seeking excitement, nature, and authenticity.

Here, you can catch some of Africa's largest tiger fish while watching majestic elephant herds on the Lower Zambezi, or fly over the mighty Victoria Falls in a breathtaking flight.



Zimbabwe

As early as 200 B.C., the San (Bushmen) are believed to have been the first inhabitants of present-day Zimbabwe.

Among its most extraordinary archaeological treasures is **Great Zimbabwe**, a ruined city that was the capital of the ancient Kingdom of Zimbabwe during the Iron Age. The kingdom reached its peak between the 11th and 14th centuries, following the dominance of Mapungubwe further south.

The ruins of Great Zimbabwe are the largest of that era in sub-Saharan Africa, characterized by imposing dry-stone walls built without mortar. The Great Enclosure, with walls 11 meters high and 250 meters long, represents the largest ancient structure south of the Sahara. Artifacts found indicate extensive trade with Kilwa on the Tanzanian coast, and trade routes that extended as far as Arabia, India, and China. During its peak, it is estimated that up to 1,000 kg of gold were extracted.

Later, with Bantu dominance, the Shona people settled, followed by the Nguni and Zulu tribes. In the mid-19th century, the descendants of the Nguni and Zulu, known as the Ndebele, founded their own kingdom in the territory.

By 1850, the British arrived, conquering the region and making it a colony known as Rhodesia, named after Cecil Rhodes and his British South Africa Company. It was later renamed Southern Rhodesia and in 1923 European settlers voted to become a self-governing colony under British authority.

In 1963, after the Second World War, Northern Rhodesia (today Zambia) and Nyasaland (today Malawi) gained independence, while Southern Rhodesia decided to remain a colony.

Two years later, the white minority unilaterally declared Rhodesia's independence from Britain, and in 1970 officially proclaimed the republic. The government, led by Ian Smith, continued to resist the demands of self-determination from the black majority, pushing the country into conflict and civil war.

In 1978, the white minority finally agreed to transfer power to the black majority, though Smith remained interim Prime Minister.

In 1980, the first multiracial elections were held and the overwhelming victory of Robert Mugabe marked the birth of independent Zimbabwe, officially celebrated on 17 April 1980.

Today, Zimbabwe is a landlocked country but rich in fertile soils, mineral resources, and breathtaking landscapes. Legendary destinations such as Victoria Falls, Hwange National Park, and Mana Pools are world-renowned.

The territory ranges from the granite hills of Matopos to majestic mountains, lush forests, and crystal-clear rivers of the Eastern Highlands, offering an extraordinary variety of habitats.

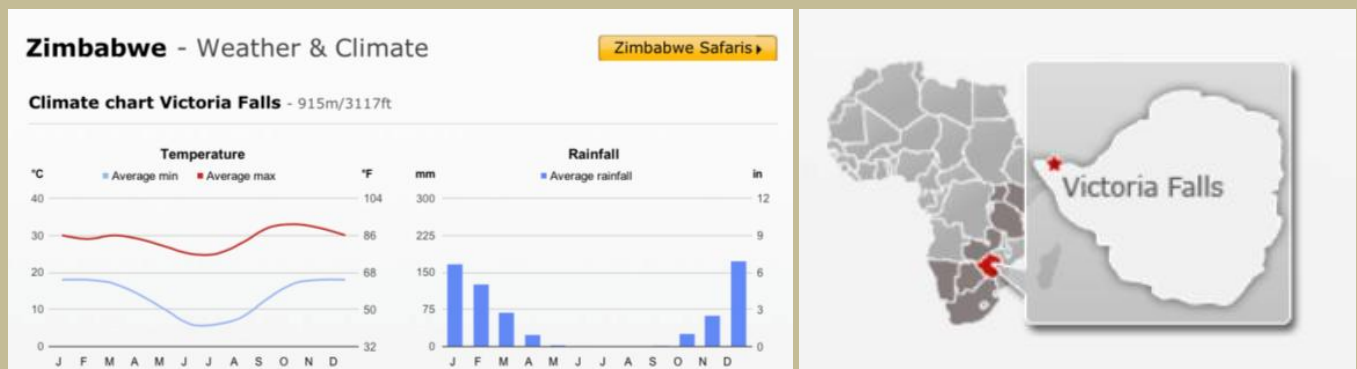
The Zambezi River offers landscapes of spectacular beauty, crowned by one of the world's most famous natural wonders: Victoria Falls. The national parks along its course, such as Mana Pools, provide close encounters with Africa's great wildlife in some of the continent's most pristine environments.

Along the border with Botswana, the eastern edges of the Kalahari Desert blend with teak forests inland, creating unique habitats where desert-adapted animals coexist with woodland species.

Zimbabwe's black population mainly belongs to the great Bantu ethnic group of southern and central Africa. Two main linguistic groups:

- The Mashona (Shona-speaking), who make up about 75% of the population and represent the oldest and largest group.
- The Matabele (Sindebele-speaking), about 20% of the population, settled in the southwest around Bulawayo about 150 years ago, as direct descendants of the South African Zulu group.

The Matabele dominated the Mashona until the British occupation of 1890.



Suggested reading

Africa, John Reader;

The Covenant, James Michener;

The Lost World of the Kalahari, Laurens van der Post;

West With The Night, by Beryl Markham

My African Song, by Antonella Bonomi