



Shongololo Express proudly re-introduces their Premier trip into some of the most beautiful and historically rich destinations in Southern Africa. Our multilingual tour guides, and vehicles, which are carried on board, will transport you to tour and experience all these areas have to offer. If an adventurous, yet relaxing trip is what you are looking for, come aboard the Shongololo Express!

ON THE TRACES OF DR LIVINGSTONE NORTHBOUND

11 nights / 12 days

Victoria Falls – visit the spectacular falls and enjoy all the town has to offer

Selous Game Reserve – a view like no other as the train journeys down the escarpment and into the Selous Game Reserve

Dar es Salaam and Bagamoyo – rich in history and culture, guests can shop and explore all these cities have to offer

Nature & Wildlife
 Highlights & Leisure
 Culture & People
 Optional Extras



Tour Dates

03 Sep 12 – 14 Sep 11

PRE DAY – VICTORIA FALLS

Having a “pre-day” means that one is able to acclimatise and unpack prior to the first day of touring. Optional Extras that could be undertaken (should vehicles be available to take you) are:

Transfer from airport 20 km

OPTIONAL EXTRAS

1. Flight of Angels

A highlight of any visit to Victoria Falls is a trip in a light aircraft or helicopter over the falls. Enjoy a bird's eye view of one of the seven Natural Wonders of the World in all its magical splendour.

2. White Water River Rafting

Batoka Gorge provides one of the most intense sensory thrills imaginable. Its twenty-three white water rapids and striking scenery deep within the sheer black cliffs, afford the adrenaline junkie a wild roller coaster ride. The rapids are run in large rubber rafts, launched from just below the Falls. (Seasonal).

3. Elephant Riding

Seated comfortably on the back of nature's true “King of the Beasts”, guests can experience an age-old African tradition. A mutually enriching and rewarding experience for man and elephant in a modern-day Africa.

4. Bungee Jumping from Livingstone Bridge

Spanning the gorge between Zambia and Zimbabwe, The Livingstone Bridge offers one of the world's highest bungee jumps (111 m). Challenge the limits of the mind and test the edge of fear by leaping off the impressive steel structure, with the falls behind and the mighty Zambezi River below.

The train remain stable at Victoria Falls station.

DAY 01 – CHOBE NATIONAL PARK (BOTSWANA)

INCLUSIVE OPTION

Chobe National Park

A 70-kilometre road trip brings us to the Botswana border, where we cross into the famous Chobe National Park. There is a great array of wildlife and the Chobe elephants are well respected, as are the many hippos which can be seen in large numbers basking in the river. Highlights include a game drive in 4x4 vehicles and a river cruise on the Chobe River. Lunch (guests' own account) will be taken at a waterfront lodge where there is a swimming pool.

(Full day. Distance travelled: ± 200 km)

The train remains stationary at Victoria Falls Station over night.

DAY 02 – VICTORIA FALLS ZIMBABWE AND ZAMBIAN SIDE.

INCLUSIVE OPTION

The Victoria Falls

Forming the largest single “curtain” of falling water on earth (on average the curtain is 92 m deep) The Victoria Falls' 500m plume of spray can be seen from as far as 70 km away. The sound of the water can also be heard from kilometres away and up close this muted ‘thunder’ becomes a roar. In full flood, over 550 million litres of water per minute cascade over the brink. The vast width of the Falls, extending 1 708 m, allows for many safe vantage points from where you will be able to get different views of the rolling water as it crashes into the gorge and whose constant spray maintains the Rain Forest. The forest is an attraction on its own with many of the trees marked to help identification. These include fig, mahogany, date palm, milkwood and ebony. The bird life is also prolific and species that may be seen include the colourful sunbird and large trumpeter hornbill. Craft and curio shops abound with enough variety for everyone to find something to take home as a souvenir. Guests will have an early lunch on the Zimbabwean side, depart after lunch to the Falls on the Zambian side.

Guests will cross the Zambezi River over the famous Railroad Bridge. We will first stop at the Zambian side of Victoria Falls before continuing to the town of Livingstone, named for David Livingstone, the Scottish visionary, who had an insatiable appetite for exploration and a desire to open Africa to the world. The existence of the Falls had of course been known to local tribes people. Livingstone, upon hearing stories about “Mosi oa Tunya” (the smoke that thunders), arranged to be taken there by dugout canoe. On November 16, 1855 he came to the northern end of what is now Livingstone Island and from there crawled to the edge of the precipice and beheld the spectacle of the waterfall for the first time.

Guests will meet the train back in Livingstone from where it will depart to Lusaka in the late evening.

DAY 03 – ON THE RAILS TO LUSAKA

Today will be spent on the rails through the south of Zambia towards its capital, Lusaka. You'll be able to see rural Africa as it passes by – miles and miles of flat landscape dotted with green Mopani trees. The exciting prospect of deeper, darker Africa looming... Lunch (inclusive on this full-day of travel) is served on board.

After arrival, the train will remain stationary in Lusaka over night.

DAY 04 – LUSAKA – CHAMINUKA LODGE

After breakfast guests embark on vehicles for the city tour of Lusaka on route to Chaminuka lodge where they will overnight.

INCLUSIVE OPTION

1. Lusaka City and Chaminuka Lodge:

The visit to the City provides a comprehensive view of the way of life in Lusaka, a typical African Capital City with a lot of history behind it, historical building includes the government and cultural sites and the main markets. Before heading to the lodge guests pass by the **KASISI CHILDREN'S HOME**. It is run by highly dedicated Catholic nuns and provides shelter for children of various ages whose parents died of AIDS. There are no charges for the tour but donation will be greatly appreciated.

Chaminuka offers a wide range of activities to keep you entertained during your stay at the lodge.

Tour of the Chaminuka Art Collection. You can marvel at the art and by special arrangement you can meet many of the artists in person. They can share their experiences with you and explain what motivates and inspires them .

Morning, afternoon and evening drives in open top safari vehicles, conducted by qualified guides, conversant with the wildlife, birdlife and the trees of Zambia. The Chaminuka Nature Reserve has more than 72 species of wildlife, a combination of mammals, reptiles and amphibians.

Interpretative **Bush Walks**, where in addition to the Wildlife and the Birds you can learn about the vegetation and the medicinal values of our plants and trees as they are used locally

The lakes are stocked with four varieties of Bream, Catfish and Nchenga (akin to whitebait). You can fish from the banks or from the floating pontoon. Sunsets are spectacular from the lake.

The diversity of the habitat at Chaminuka makes it a premier bird watching Location. More than 300 species of birdlife have been recorded in the area.

Guests spend a night at the Chaminuka Lodge.

DAY 05 – LUSAKA CITY AND CHAMINUKA LODGE

INCLUSIVE OPTION

1. Lusaka City and Chaminuka Lodge:

A second day is spent at the lodge partaking on the activities offered at the lodge, guests later take a leisure drive to the train.

The train will depart for Serenje over night.

DAY 06 – SERENJE / LIVINGSTONE MEMORIAL / KUNDALILA FALLS

INCLUSIVE OPTION

1. Livingstone Memorial & Kundalila Falls:

After breakfast our journey on the tracks of Dr Livingstone continues to the place where he died on May 4, 1873. It's a very pleasant drive from Serenje, passing the Kasanka National Park. Along the way you will see the creatively decorated houses of the Bemba people. The memorial itself is simply a plaque placed on the former site of a 'mupundu' wild fruit tree under which Dr. Livingstone's heart was buried. His body was then wrapped and carried for 1 500 km (over 11 months) to the coast by his dedicated porters Sushu and Chuma, from where it was shipped back to England.

Before returning to the train, we will visit the Kundalila Falls (meaning "Crying Dove"). The Kaombe River falls 70 m here, breaking into thin veils of spray.

(Half-day activity; distance travelled: +/- 250 km)

Train departs in the evening for Kasama.

DAY 07 – SCENIC ESCARPMENT DROP

This full day train ride will be a highlight, as it includes a spectacular daylight drop off the escarpment. Lunch (inclusive on this full-day of travel) is served on board. Please note that we will be crossing the Border at Tunduma to Tanzania.

DAY 08 – CROSS BORDER / MAKAMBAKO (TANZANIA)

INCLUSIVE OPTION

1. Stone Age Site and Tea Break in the town of Iringa:

After arrival at Makambako, we will visit the Isimila Stone Age Site near Iringa. East Africa has always been important for the study of human evolution. It has the longest record of fossil hominids, extending back almost 5 million years. It also has a number of sites, which show that the archaeological or cultural record goes back to 2.5 million years ago. About 20 km south of Iringa, on the main road to Mbeya, some of the richest finds of Stone Age tools were discovered in 1951. Many fossilised bones were also found in the area, among them those of a mammal related to the modern giraffe, but having a much shorter neck, as well as an extinct hippopotamus with unusual periscope-like projections. Lunch will be served at one of the restaurants in Iringa. The town dates back to 1896, during the colonial era it was a centre for the German and British settlers who took up land and started farming. Today Iringa is a bustling municipality and regional headquarters. After lunch guests visit a thriving market usually well stocked with fruit, vegetables, flour, rice, maize etc. Adjacent to the fresh food section, stalls sell locally made baskets, mats, pots, metal utensils, brooms, brushes and touristy “knickknacks”.

(Full-day activity; distance travelled: +/- 250 km)

The train departs in the evening for Kisiwa Station, close by to Selous Game Reserve, where guests will depart for a full day game drive.

DAY 09 – SELOUS GAME RESERVE.

INCLUSIVE OPTION

1. Selous Game Reserve:

Selous, covering an area of roughly 50 000 km², is one of the largest game reserves in Africa - 4 times the size of the Serengeti, and almost 6% of Tanzania's land surface. It possesses a diverse landscape, ranging from hot volcanic springs to sporadic lakes, channels from the Great Ruvu and Rufiji Rivers. The reserve consists of 43 hunting blocks and 4 photographic zones for tourists in the north. These photographic zones cover around 2 500 km², roughly the size of Luxembourg. Selous is famous for its Elephant, Hippopotamus and Rhino (although depleted). Africa's largest population of Buffalo can also be found here. Other species include Nyasaland and Brindled Gnu, Hartbeest, Greater Kudu, Sable Antelope, Eland, Reedbuck, Bushbuck, Waterbuck, Warthog, Zebra, Giraffe and Wildebeest. Predators include Lion, Leopard, Spotted Hyena and Hunting Dog. Cheetahs are rare. Over 350 species of bird and reptiles such as crocodiles and various snakes and lizards and 2 000 species of plants are also to be found in this reserve.

(Full-day activity; distance travelled: +/- 120km)

OPTIONAL EXTRAS

1. Overnight at the Lodge in Selous.

Guests overnight at a lodge in the Selous region. Please note that this option depends on availability of the lodges and Camps. Guests meet the train at Kisiwa Station.

2. Walking Safaris

This option will be offered at the lodges in the park to all guests overnighing in the park.

Train remains at Kisiwa Station, while clients spend the night in Selous Game Reserve.

DAY 10 – KISAKI / OVERNIGHT TO DAR-ES-SALAAM

INCLUSIVE OPTION

Today guests take a tour to the communal lands to experience the life style of the indigenous people of this region the Masai people. This tour will be half day, guests will return to have their lunch on the train and afternoon spent at leisure.

The train departs overnight for its final destination, Dar es Salaam.

DAY 11 – DAR ES SALAAM / BAGAMOYO

Dar es Salaam (meaning “Haven of Peace”), has Sultan Majid bin Said, the 1860s sultan of Zanzibar, to thank for its existence. He saw its potential as a deepwater port because of its strategic position at the centre of the East African coast. The city is an eclectic mix of Swahili, German, Asian and British architecture, reflecting its colonial past and more recent history. Today it is a hustling and bustling seaport at the crossroads of some of the most important sea routes on the Indian Ocean. A fascinating pastime here is undoubtedly sitting at the water’s edge and being witness to the diverse vessels navigating the waters of the port – not least of them being the traditional dhows, going about there business as if there were no huge cruise liners and cargo ships shadowing them.

INCLUSIVE OPTION

1. Bagamoyo:

Apart from having once been a slave and ivory port, this closest mainland town to the island of Zanzibar, was once also the terminus for caravans from the interior. Its name has a twofold meaning, with caravan porters first calling it “bwaga moyo” (Swahili for “Throw off Melancholy”). However, as a terminus for the slave trade the words changed to “baga moyo” (“Throw down your Heart”) – despair expressed by those captured as slaves, as they faced a long and uncertain future. Interesting historical sites which can be visited include the Bomani (German Colonial Administration Headquarters), the Bagamoyo Museum (which also houses the small chapel where Dr David Livingstone’s remains were laid before taken to Zanzibar to be shipped to England) and the German Graveyard. The first church on the East Coast of Africa also stands here, as well as 15 mosques and many exciting Arabic and Indian buildings – of particular interest those with old Suaheli wooden carved doors – once marks of status and wealth, but very scarce and mostly in very bad condition today.

(Full-day activity; distance travelled: +/- 144km)

The train remains stationary in Dar es Salaam.

DAY 12 – TRANSFER DAY PLUS POST-TOUR DAYS

After breakfast you can stay on board until it is the time of your airport transfer (depending on the flight organised by you), or we will transport you to the starting point of your specialised activity, which we’ll be happy to help you organise.

We hope that you will have had an unforgettable journey with us, following the traces of Dr Livingstone. We hope to welcome you back aboard the Shongololo Express for another exciting adventure soon.

Transfer to airport 60 km

OPTIONAL EXTRAS

1. Zanzibar:

For such a small island, Zanzibar is steeped in history. From ancient Arab and Persian immigrants to bloody wars and revolutions, Zanzibar has always been in the thick of these and depicts many stories.

2. Kilimanjaro:

Crowned by an eternal snowcap, Mt. Kilimanjaro is situated inside the Kilimanjaro National Park in Tanzania; it is the highest mountain in Africa and the tallest free standing mountain on earth.

3. Serengeti:

Home to nearly every species of African animal, the Crater offers breathtaking views and a chance to see an incredible concentration of East African mammals.

IMPORTANT PREPARATIONS AND THINGS TO NOTE

- All visas to be finalised before the start of the journey
- Malaria prophylactics to be taken
- Yellow-fever inoculations to be taken
- Warm clothing to be packed for cold winter nights and mornings
- Raincoats to be packed as well
- Sunscreen and hats recommended
- Clothing for a Theme Dinner on board
- Pre-day arrival highly recommended in order not to miss out part or all of the activities on Day 1; Northbound departure will be early afternoon, so if you only arrive on Day 1, it will have to be no later than mid-morning