

Tanzania

BIRDS & BIG CATS

LIMOSA HOLIDAYS | TOUR INFO PACK



Wildebeest on the move through Serengeti National Park © tour participant Jo Latham, wildlifephotocards.co.uk

2019 **NEW DATES! Friday 3rd - Tuesday 14th May (12 days)** **Small group tour with Dalton Gibbs**

Timed to coincide with the great annual migration of Wildebeest through the Serengeti Plain - a highlight on our eight previous May tours here - our 'Birds & Big Cats' safari to Northern Tanzania will introduce you to magnificent Arusha, Tarangire, Ngorongoro and Serengeti National Parks. Join our East Africa specialist Dalton Gibbs for what is arguably the greatest wildlife experience on Earth... and thrill to a super-abundance of East African birds and mammals in the most dramatic and beautiful of settings!

- Birding in the shadow of the two great African volcanoes: Kilimanjaro and Mt. Meru
- See Fischer's Lovebird, Rufous-tailed Weaver and other endemic birds unique to the region
- Experience the great annual migration of Wildebeest through the Serengeti Plain
- Superb for large mammals - including Lion, Leopard, Cheetah, Giraffe, Elephant, Zebra
- 4WD safari-style vehicle with open 'roll-top' roof for wildlife viewing
- Dramatic and spectacularly beautiful landscapes
- Small party size - maximum 6 participants
- Expertly led by our East Africa specialist and all-round naturalist Dalton Gibbs

What's Included?

- Limosa Tour Leader
- Professional safari driver-guides
- Return flights - London Heathrow to Kilimanjaro, with KLM
- 10 nights accommodation in Tanzania, staying at good and comfortable wildlife lodges
- All main meals - with drinking water provided during the day
- Travel by 4WD vehicle with open 'roll-top' for wildlife viewing
- All excursions, park fees, tour based tips (inc. local guides, drivers) and taxes

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Outline Itinerary

- Day 1:** Fly London Heathrow-Kilimanjaro (same day arrival). Arusha (2 nts)
Day 2: Arusha National Park
Day 3: Arusha to Lake Manyara (2 nts)
Day 4: Tarangire National Park
Day 5-6: Lake Manyara to the Ndotu grass plains. Ndotu (2 nts)
Days 7-8: Serengeti National Park (2 nts)
Days 9-10: Ngorongoro Conservation Area and Crater. Crater rim (2 nts)
Day 11: Lake Manyara escarpment. Evening flight Kilimanjaro-London
Day 12: Arrival in London

Tour Overview

PLEASE NOTE! *Due to airline schedule changes, we have new dates for this year's tour - now running Friday 3-Tuesday 14 May 2019*

Northern Tanzania offers perhaps the ultimate wildlife experience. Its forests, lakes and savannah teem with birds, including a suite of Serengeti endemics. There are also extraordinary numbers of large mammals, from unimaginable herds of wildebeest, zebra and gazelle sweeping majestically across the plains, through to top predators such as Lion, Leopard and Cheetah. Yet, even without this superabundance of wildlife, the backdrop to our tour is magnificent. Join our East Africa specialist Dalton Gibbs on a journey through some of the most awe-inspiring and incredibly beautiful landscapes on Earth!

Our visit is timed to coincide with the great annual migration of Wildebeest through the Serengeti - a truly astonishing spectacle and a major highlight of all our previous tours! But our travels begin at Arusha, in the shadow of two of East Africa's great peaks: Mt. Meru and snow-capped Kilimanjaro. Where the dry acacia scrub gives way to mist-belt forest, troops of agile Guereza Colobus forage among branches draped with "Old Man's Beard". Their sudden alarm calls may betray a Crowned Eagle hunting above the canopy, while a brilliant flash of red transforms itself into the lovely Hartlaub's Turaco or a stunning Bar-tailed Trogon.

To the south, lies Tarangire National Park with its thornbush scrub and gigantic baobab trees. A place synonymous with the African Elephant, this is also the haunt of three notable endemics: the striking Yellow-collared Lovebird, Ashy Starling and Rufous-tailed Weaver. Bordering Lake Manyara - famous for its concentrations of rose-pink flamingos - this ecosystem also offers stunning palm savannah and the dramatic cliffs of the Great Rift Valley.

The alternating grass and bush plains of the fabulous Serengeti stretch beyond the horizon and can literally teem with animals as far as the eye can see - including the famous wildebeest migration and associated predators. Here we'll find Africa's big Kori Bustard and Secretarybird, along with Serengeti endemics such as Fischer's Lovebird and Grey-breasted Francolin. In the more wooded central Serengeti, Usambiro Barbet and Silverbird occur amongst an even richer diversity of birds - and we have our best chances of spotting Leopard!

The immense caldera of the Ngorongoro Crater is one of the scenic wonders of the world, its vast crater floor and highland rainforest a microcosm of equatorial Africa. Some 30,000 large mammals - including the rare Black Rhino - live within the confines of this spectacular natural amphitheatre.



Hildebrandt's Starling is a colourful East African endemic
 © Callan Cohen & Deirdre Vrancken

As we return full circle to Arusha, we'll look back at the wonders of the Rift Valley from our lunch spot overlooking Lake Manyara - our last stop on this superb wildlife tour - as raptors soar over the escarpment.

Guide Dalton Gibbs is our East Africa specialist and has led our last four tours to Northern Tanzania. Our May 2019 tour will be his fifth trip to Tanzania for us and Limosa's ninth visit there since 2009.

Daily Itinerary

Day 1

FLY LONDON-KILIMANJARO

Our 'Birds & Big Cats' tour to Tanzania begins with a morning flight from London Heathrow and onward same day connection to Kilimanjaro Airport (near the town of Arusha). Our guide Dalton will be waiting to welcome us on arrival there this evening. We transfer directly to our first lodge (about 45 minutes drive), which will be our base for two nights. *Night Arusha*

Day 2

ARUSHA NATIONAL PARK

Arusha lies at the base of two of East Africa's great peaks, Mounts Kilimanjaro and Meru. Our first full day in Tanzania will be spent exploring areas at the foot of these mountains, where dry acacia scrub gives way to luxuriant mist-belt forests as one drives further up the slopes. Small troops of attractive Guereza Colobus monkeys, with their distinctive long, drooping black and white coats, forage amongst branches draped in 'Old Man's Beard' lichen.

Many of the birds here are completely different to those we will see later in the trip and we'll hope to enjoy the likes of Narina Trogon and Hartlaub's Turaco, while the sudden alarm calls of the monkeys might well betray a powerful Crowned Hawk-eagle hunting overhead. We'll see our first large mammals today too, with African Buffalo and Giraffe to watch for in the more open areas and, if we're lucky, the dainty Kirk's Dikdik in the forest understorey.

At the border of the park, African plains mammals such as Thompson's Gazelle and

Common Zebra mingle freely with the local Maasai herds of cattle and goats, in a seemingly harmonious tolerance. Definitely food for thought while watching Meru's abundant wildlife, with regal Maasai herdsmen tending their flocks, their striking red shawls rippling in the breeze - and all presided over by the looming snowy peak of Kilimanjaro. *Night Arusha*

Day 3

ARUSHA TO LAKE MANYARA

We head south today towards Tarangire National Park and settle into our next lodge, on the edge of Lake Manyara. The palm savannah grassland here offers a stark contrast to the lush forests of Mt Meru. Our luxury, tented camp is visited by curious zebras and Thomson's Gazelles, and the expansive views make for a very scenic base.

From the deck of our restaurant, we can 'scope for waders along the ever-moving lakeshore, and watch jackals foraging for prey. Secretarybirds, Black-bellied Bustards and a host of cisticolas patrol the grasslands, while the acacia scrub holds the rather vocal Spotted Palm Thrush and groups of 'duetting' D'Arnaud's Barbets. *Night Lake Manyara, near Tarangire National Park*

Day 4

TARANGIRE NATIONAL PARK

Today we make an early start to nearby Tarangire National Park, a place synonymous with the African Elephant. Indeed, there are few more scenic spots to view these jumbos than among that giant of African trees, the Baobab, which dominate this splendid reserve.

Tarangire is also home to some of the birds that are endemic to this part of Africa: the striking Yellow-collared Lovebird is common here, and Ashy Starlings and Rufous-tailed Weavers are plentiful, too. We will also encounter the tremendous diversity of hornbills, woodpeckers, rollers and weavers that make African savannah birding so rewarding - and, if we are very lucky, will perhaps see our first big cats!

There will also be time to savour close views of a rich variety of birds that frequent Tarangire's picnic sites and the park headquarters, such as the colourful D'Arnaud's Barbet. *Night Lake Manyara, near Tarangire National Park*

Days 5 - 6**LAKE MANYARA TO NDUTU,
NGORONGORO CONSERVATION AREA**

After some further birding and lunch at the lodge, we will head up into the vast Serengeti-Ngorongoro ecosystem. One of the world's great natural amphitheatres, it really is impossible to convey in words the feeling of awe and privilege one experiences in these vast, timeless landscapes with their abundance of wildlife. We shall spend a total of six nights enjoying this extraordinary region.

First, we'll head up the Lake Manyara escarpment. Lake Manyara nestles beneath the dramatic cliffs of the East African Rift Valley and is rich in wildlife - but is perhaps most famous for its large concentrations of Greater and Lesser Flamingos.

Next, we'll drive up the steep slopes of the Ngorongoro caldera - the crater of an ancient, collapsed volcano - that looms above the plains. The rim of the crater presents a quite different habitat to the grasslands down below, with fairy-tale forests of huge, gnarled trees with 'Old Man's Beard' swirling in the morning mists. Since we will be spending two nights here at the end of the tour, today we will simply indulge in the impressive scenery, stopping for short scans and the chance to stretch our legs.

Looking westwards, the plains of the incomparable Serengeti stretch away to the horizon. We'll head out of the crater and across the plains, hoping to encounter the migrating herds as they move towards the central Serengeti at this time of year. Our destination for these two nights lies to the southwest, at Ndutu. Renowned for its concentrations of wildlife, Ndutu makes an excellent base from which to explore the southern 'short-grass plains', lakes and woodland.

Endemic Serengeti birds are common around the lodge at Ndutu, with Fischer's Lovebirds breeding in tree-cavities in the grounds and Grey-breasted Francolins displaying first thing out in front of the rooms. Kori and Hartlaub's Bustards frequent the plains, and nearby Lake Masek is excellent for waterbirds. We may well encounter a pride of engorged Lions, lazily

scattered around the previous night's kill; or watch as scavenging vultures, hyaenas and jackals wait patiently for an opportunity to snaffle some scraps. As we search for them, we may see Bat-eared Foxes basking in the morning sun. With luck, we could even come across a Cheetah chasing Thomson's and Grant's Gazelles over the plains. *Two nights Ndutu*

**Days 7 - 8
SERENGETI**

Leaving Ndutu this morning, we will make our way northwards into the Serengeti National Park, where we shall spend the next two nights.

From our comfortable lodge, we will head out to explore the central Serengeti. There are more trees here, offering a larger diversity of birds – and our best chance of spotting a Leopard! Usambiro Barbet, Superb and Hildebrandt's Starlings, Silverbird, Tanzanian Red-billed Hornbill and Grey-headed Silverbill are just some of those we should see as we explore the riverine loops, wildlife drives and rocky outcrops of this rewarding area. If we're lucky, we will also find the little-known Karamoja Apalis and possibly encounter family groups of Grey-crested Helmetshrikes - though the floppy crests of this latter species are definitely outdone by Long-crested Eagle, just one of several different species of eagle we should find.

The largest concentration of Wildebeest should be present in this area at this time of year. While their exact position can never be predicted, we are highly likely to see some huge migrating herds - indeed, some areas can literally teem with animals as far as the eye can see! It is impossible to describe the sense of energy that one gets when surrounded by these hordes of grunting animals and the predators that accompany them. The herds are dominated by Blue Wildebeest (sometimes known as Brindled Gnu), but also contain vast numbers of Common Zebra and Thomson's Gazelles.

With so many potential meals on the hoof, it will come as no surprise to discover that the vulture watching is excellent here, too! Star birds include the huge Lappet-faced Vulture and the scarcer Rüppell's Vulture. *Two nights Serengeti*

Day 9**SERENGETI TO NGORONGORO CRATER RIM**

As we leave the Serengeti, we'll retrace our steps through the southern plains. If time allows, we will stop en route at the Olduvai Gorge museum, a world-famous archaeological site where the Leakey family unearthed the remains of some of Man's earliest ancestors. It adds a sense of time and respect to think that the spectacle stretching-out in front of us has been going on for countless generations.

We should arrive late afternoon on the Ngorongoro crater rim. We'll search for the lovely Schalow's Turaco, with its distinctive long pointed crest, in the emergent tree canopies, while gorgeous Malachite Sunbirds forage for patches of upland flowers.

Perched on the crater rim, our lodge offers spectacular views across full width of the immense caldera. At night we may hear the calls of Montane Nightjar, Tree Hyrax and hyaenas. And the next morning, before descending into the crater itself, we may wake to the resounding grunts of the Wildebeest grazing below. *Night Ngorongoro Crater Rim*

Day 10**NGORONGORO CRATER**

The Ngorongoro crater floor is justly famous as a natural sanctuary for the bountiful wildlife within. Nowadays, it is also the only reliable place in East Africa to see Black Rhinoceros - but the whole is like a microcosm of Africa, with a good population of large mammals, including Lion. Small lakes inside the crater hold a selection of flamingos, storks and plovers - stalked by Golden Jackals. Augur Buzzard is among an array of raptors that may also be seen and there'll be no shortage of other bird and mammal excitements to keep us fully occupied here today!

As the day draws to a close, we will return to enjoy our last evening's drinks over spectacular crater views and gaze back down at the unique sights we have experienced earlier in the day. *Night Ngorongoro Crater Rim*

Day 11**LAKE MANYARA ESCARPMENT & KILIMANJARO, FLY LONDON**

We travel westwards to our lunch stop overlooking beautiful Lake Manyara, the last stop on this wonderful tour. Our viewpoint will offer us final views of African raptors soaring above the escarpment.

After lunch, we make the three-hour drive back to Kilimanjaro Airport, where we say farewell to Dalton and catch our overnight flight home.

Day 12**ARRIVAL LONDON**

Arrival in London, where our birdwatching and wildlife tour to Tanzania tour concludes.

Trip Information

Group Size Max 6 participants & 1 guide

Birds 300-350 species

Mammals 30-50 species

Accommodation 10 nights accommodation in Tanzania staying at a selection of hand-picked hotels, guest houses, safari lodges/permanent tented camps. All rooms have private facilities.

Meals All main meals are included in the tour price, commencing with light refreshments on arrival at the first lodge late evening on Day 1 and concluding with lunch on Day 11. Food is good. Most main meals taken at our lodgings, and lunches either as picnics or at the lodges.

Walking Easy. Short walks, where these are permissible. Comfortable walking shoes and sandals are suitable.

In the parks, away from our lodgings however, please note that the presence of wild animals generally precludes excursions on foot so we travel by 4WD safari-style vehicle adapted for wildlife viewing with an open 'roll-top' roof.

Maximum altitude: on this tour we reach a maximum elevation of 2400m (7900ft) above sea level - even though much higher mountains loom above!

Weather Tanzania is tropical year-round. May is one of the cooler months making it a great time to visit, with temperatures typically in the range of 10-30C (50-86F) and average daily temperatures of around 20-25C (68-77F); lower if there is cloud and mist on the mountains. April is the wettest month so we can expect the landscape in May to be vibrant, green and lush, possibly with some cloud and rain hanging over from April, especially near the mountain rainforests. Temperatures fall with altitude and mornings can feel decidedly chilly on the Ngorongoro Crater rim at 2400m (down to perhaps 5C/41F at night) - so although we are in the tropics be sure to bring some warm clothing!

Flights We fly from London Heathrow to Kilimanjaro (Arusha). KLM offer the best schedules and is our preferred carrier on this route. Please note that there are no direct flights from the UK to Kilimanjaro at this time so all routes do involve a change of planes (change in Amsterdam with KLM).

Ground Transport We use 4WD safari-style vehicles (e.g. Landcruisers / Land Rover type) specially adapted for wildlife viewing with an open 'roll-top' roof.

Insects Mosquitoes are of course present throughout the tropics. Bring repellent and dress accordingly (i.e. covering up with long sleeves and long trousers). The accommodations we use do usually supply mosquito nets.

Photos Superb photographic opportunities on this tour - birds, large mammals and landscapes.

About Your Guide

Dalton Gibbs Dalton is a conservator for the City of Cape Town (South Africa) and runs Rondevlei Nature Reserve, where, apart from ensuring Cape Town's last protected areas remain intact, his responsibilities include monitoring bird breeding colonies and chasing down escaped hippos! He is a superb naturalist with a deep interest in all living things and their ecosystems - making him a highly valued guide and a favourite with tour participants. Dalton led our May 2014, 2015, 2017 and 2018 tours to Tanzania and - so long as he buys his wife

another rose bush for each excursion - is all set to return there with our May 2019 tour!

Tour Cost

2019 (12 days):
£6395 (inc flights from London)
Land only cost: £5795
Deposit: £700
Single Supp: £595

Cost includes

- Services of our expert guide
- Return flights London Heathrow-Kilimanjaro
- 10 nights accommodation in Tanzania
- All main meals (with drinking water provided)
- Local travel by 4WD safari vehicle
- All excursions, entry fees to parks, tour based tips (incl. local drivers and guides) and taxes
- Map & Limosa checklist of birds & mammals

Cost excludes

Insurance, Tanzania visa (approx £40), drinks, airport meals/snacks & other items of a personal nature

What You Say...

"A fantastic trip - wonderful views of mammals - especially canids and cats (my main interests!). African Golden Wolf and Serval both new to me, and to 'eyeball' a cub of the former was just incredible! Birds and scenery also totally amazing! Tanzania is an awe-inspiring place"

SW, Tanzania tour

"Whole trip was 'stellar'!"

RH, Tanzania tour

"My best wildlife experience with Limosa."

MC, Tanzania tour

"After several years of intense travel and birding I can rate this tour as my best travel experience to date. The quality of the sightings and total of cats/animals and birds made the trip."

PB, Tanzania tour

Financial Security

Limosa Holidays is a fully bonded Tour Operator and a member of the Association of Independent Tour Operators (AITO). We hold an ATOL (Air Tour Operators Licence) granted by the CAA, providing for your protection in the event of Limosa Holidays' insolvency. Our ATOL licence number is ATOL 2950.

For tours not including the cost of a flight from the UK or for holidays booked by you as 'Land Only', all payments made to us are fully bonded through the Association of Bonded Travel Organisers Trust Limited (ABTOT). Our ABTOT membership number is 5230. For details please see our brochure or website: <http://www.limosaholidays.co.uk/financial-protection>

Limosa Loyalty Discount

We are proud of the number of loyal customers who travel regularly with us. As our way of saying 'thank you', we offer a **Frequent Travel Discount**. Under the scheme, everyone who takes four trips with us is entitled to claim a 5% discount on their 5th trip. ^{*1}

^{*1} **Conditions:** *This offer applies to the basic tour cost only and excludes certain commission-based trips, extra costs such as additional flights or accommodation, private extensions and cancellations. • Discounts cannot be given in lieu of tour deposits or off the cost of single room supplements. • Please note discount must be requested at time of booking!*

How To Book

Check availability on our website or with our office. We are happy to hold Provisional Reservations for up to 7 days. After this, we do require a Booking Form and deposit to confirm your place on tour. Any unconfirmed space will be released.

Book Online, by Phone or by Post

You can book and pay the deposit simply and securely **Online** via our website, using the '**Book This Tour**' button on the relevant tour page or the **Booking** tab at the top of the page.

Telephone bookings must be confirmed in writing by completion of a Booking Form (there's one tucked inside every brochure or as a PDF download from our website), which can be mailed to us in the time honoured way.

Please be sure to read our Booking Conditions and General Information prior to booking. These can be found in full in the footer on every page on our website (or available from our office on request); also in an abridged form at the back of our brochure.

When to Book

Early booking is advised since flights and accommodation are much more easily secured well in advance. To encourage early booking, we are pleased to offer an **Early Bird Discount** - see our current brochure or website for details.

All our tours are limited to small group sizes. So they can fill up quickly - sometimes even before our new brochure comes out! Single rooms in particular can often be in short supply and among the first to go, so do try to plan well ahead if you definitely require one of these.

Last-minute Bookings: We inevitably receive a few unexpected cancellations over the course of a season so it is always worth enquiring about vacancies on any tour - even for those departing in just a few weeks!

Payments

Deposit: The amount of **booking deposit** per person is shown alongside every tour. We accept deposit payments by **electronic bank transfer** (please ask for our bank details), **UK debit card** and **cheque** (made payable to *Limosa Holidays* and drawn on a UK bank in GBPounds Sterling).

We also accept Visa and MasterCard credit cards for payment of Booking Deposits only.

Balance: Full payment of the **tour balance** is due not later than 12 weeks prior to departure (20 weeks in the case of certain tours such as cruises or those involving rail travel). We will send you an invoice before the balance is due.

We accept balance payments and any additional payments (e.g. interim flight deposits, flight upgrades, extra hotels etc) by **electronic bank transfer (BACS), UK debit card or cheque.**

Payment by overseas customers

These must be in GB Pounds Sterling and may be made by electronic transfer direct to our bank (*please ask for our bank details*).

We do **not** accept cheques on US Banks in US Dollars, or cheques in Euros or Eurocheques.

Credit cards - please note:

(i) **We do NOT accept credit cards or overseas debit cards for balance payments (including any additional or interim payments) from customers living within the UK or European Economic Area (the EEA is the EU countries plus Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway).**

(ii) *For customers living in North America, Australia and all other areas outside of the UK and the European Economic Area we are able to accept payment by Visa and MasterCard credit cards or overseas debit card but with a charge of 2.5% of the transaction amount to help offset card company charges.*

Late Booking Payments: In order for us to guarantee your airline seats, hotels etc., full payment is required at time of booking for all late bookings (*i.e. bookings made within 12 weeks of departure*).

Other Things You Need To Know

Passports & Visas

All participants must be in possession of a **valid passport**. Your passport must be valid for a minimum period of 6 months from the date of your visa application.

No additional period of validity beyond this is required, but when travelling anywhere overseas we **always recommend** that your passport has a minimum of 6 months left to run after your intended date of return home in case of unforeseen delay.

• A VISA IS REQUIRED by UK passport holders to travel to Tanzania.

You will require a single entry visa for this tour and should obtain this prior to travelling (current cost is £40 per person). Our office will supply all UK participants with a Visa Application Form and/or instructions how to complete and apply for this approx. 2 months prior to the trip. Further details see the Tanzania High Commission (London) website: <http://tanzaniahighcomm.co.uk>

Holders of non-UK passports should contact the nearest Tanzania embassy or consulate to check whether or not they require a visa. If a visa is required, you will need to apply locally. If the embassy or consulate requires you to provide a letter confirming that you are booked on an all-inclusive tour, please contact our office and we will be happy to provide one.

Health & Vaccinations

Visit your health professional at least 4 to 6 weeks before your trip to check whether you need any vaccinations or other preventive measures. Country specific information and advice is published by the **National Travel Health Network and Centre (NaTHNaC)**, visit: <https://travelhealthpro.org.uk/countries>

and by **NHS (Scotland)**, visit: <http://www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk/destinations.aspx>

Useful information and advice about healthcare abroad is also available at NHS Choices website: <http://www.nhs.uk/NHSEngland/Healthcareabroad/Pages/Healthcareabroad.aspx>

Yellow fever vaccination and certificate is required for travellers who are arriving from, or have transited through, countries with risk of yellow fever transmission.

Recommend immunisations: hepatitis A, tetanus, polio and typhoid. Consult your doctor for up-to-date advice including cholera, hepatitis B, meningitis and TB, which may also be recommended in some circumstances.

Malaria exists throughout the year in Tanzania, so **prophylactic treatment is essential** - you must consult your doctor for the latest advice.

The above information, together with that contained within our Travel Information sheets (sent to everyone who books), outlines health requirements for this tour. **Please note that these details are given for guidance only - and are only for certain diseases - and you must consult your doctor in good time prior to travel as to what immunisations (if any) are needed for your chosen holiday.**

For full and latest health information we urge everyone to consult The National Travel Health Network and Centre (NaTHNaC) website (*see above*) prior to booking any overseas holiday. NaTHNaC is funded by the UK Government's Health Protection Agency and provides health information for both health professionals and travellers, with information compiled by its own clinical and scientific team. You can search for individual country requirements, which are updated regularly.

Your Safety & Travel Advice

An unavoidable aspect of travelling abroad nowadays is the risk it may pose to your safety and security. The best advice on current risks is provided by the UK Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO). In order to assess and protect against any risks in your chosen destination we strongly recommend that you refer to the relevant FCO Travel Advice - both prior to booking and regularly before you travel. See www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice

It is standard Limosa policy for our office to send a copy of the relevant FCO Travel Advice about the tour to all participants along with their Final Letter (ca. 2-3 weeks prior to the trip). 'Travel Aware' - staying safe and healthy abroad - is a travel safety campaign run by the FCO, and another useful resource. Go to: <https://www.gov.uk/travelaware>

Travel Insurance

Good travel insurance is **essential** before setting off on any overseas trip. In common with all

responsible tour operators, **it is a condition of booking** that all clients are fully and adequately insured before travelling overseas with us.

Be aware that some destinations may require you to produce proof of comprehensive travel insurance (*e.g.* valid insurance certificate) at immigration on arrival in the country, so you should carry your documentation with you.

Your travel insurance should cover against cancellation, curtailment, missed departure, delay, personal accident, death, loss of baggage and valuables (see note below), personal liability and legal expenses. Most importantly, your insurance must cover you fully in respect of medical care and repatriation should you become too ill to continue with the tour, including the cost of emergency evacuation by helicopter or air ambulance should this be necessary. Note that passenger liability insurance covering the transportation that we hire, particularly in Third World countries, may be inadequate; it is therefore important that your insurance cover includes sufficient provision for your dependents in the event of an accident.

We recommend that you obtain travel insurance as soon as possible after booking your holiday to ensure you are protected right from the word go in the event of unexpected cancellation prior to departure due to accident or illness. You must inform your insurers of any pre-existing medical conditions (including those of persons not necessarily travelling but upon whom your holiday may depend) that may require treatment during a period of overseas travel or might cause you to cancel the trip.

Once you have arranged your insurance, please be sure to send us the following essential details: name and contact details of your insurance provider, your policy number, expiry date and your insurers 24hr Emergency Assistance number.

Important Things to Note about Insurance

- Travel Insurance does **not** normally provide sufficient cover for valuable optical equipment, which is often best

protected under your own household insurance policy. If in doubt ask your insurers for advice prior to travel.

- Most travel insurance policies limit the amount of cover, typically up to a maximum tour cost of £5000 per person. If the tour you are booking exceeds this amount, additional cover can usually be provided upon payment of additional premium. **We recommend all travellers** check their individual policy limit to ensure the full cost of their holiday is covered.

Arranging Your Insurance: due to UK Government legislation, under Financial Services Authority (FSA) regulations, we are not allowed to offer or recommend travel related insurance to customers. Premiums can vary widely according to your age, needs, health, choice of destination and other factors, while many people nowadays have Annual Travel Insurance cover. For these reasons, we leave you free to shop around and pick your own policy, one best suited to your own individual needs.

General Information

www.limosaholidays.co.uk

Our website gives easy access to detailed tour itineraries (Tour Info Packs), trip reports, trip photos and the latest Limosa News.

Special Diets & Other Requests

We pass on all such requests to the airlines, hotels and other suppliers, and do our best to ensure (but of course cannot guarantee) that your needs will be met. Please be sure to tell us about these (in as much detail as possible) at the time of booking, to allow good time to make the necessary arrangements.

Smoking

Almost all of our clients prefer a smoke-free environment. For the enjoyment and comfort of all, we ask that smokers refrain from smoking in proximity to the group and respect our NO SMOKING policy in the vehicle, at meal times and when watching wildlife.

Any Questions?

If you have any questions at any time, you'll find our office staff friendly, efficient, approachable - and just a phone call away, eager to assist you in every way.

Our office is open 09.00-17.00 hrs Mon-Fri, and can also be reached by email. In the event we are unable to take your call, please leave a message on our answerphone (24hrs) and our office will contact you as soon as we can.

Thank you for your interest in our tours. We do hope that you will be able to join us - and we look forward to hearing from you again!

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