

SEYCHELLES

Pre-Departure Information



*Although your journey with us may end
Africa will forever be inscribed in your heart*

The islands were known by traders from the Persian Gulf centuries ago, but the first recorded landing on the uninhabited **Seychelles** was made in 1609 by an expedition of the British East India Company. The archipelago was explored by the Frenchman Lazare Picault in 1742 and 1744 and was formally annexed to France in 1756. The archipelago was named Séchelles, later changed by the British to Seychelles. War between France and Britain led to the surrender of the archipelago to the British in 1810, and it was formally ceded to Great Britain by the Treaty of Paris in 1814. The abolition of slavery in the 1830s deprived the islands' European colonists of their labour force and compelled them to switch from raising cotton and grains to cultivating less-labour-intensive crops such as coconut, vanilla, and cinnamon. In 1903 Seychelles — until that time administered as a dependency of Mauritius—became a separate British crown colony. A Legislative Council with elected members was introduced in 1948.

In 1963 the United States leased an area on the main island, Mahé, and built an air force satellite tracking station there; this brought regular air travel to Seychelles for the first time, in the form of a weekly seaplane shuttle that operated from Mombasa, Kenya.

In 1970 Seychelles obtained a new constitution, universal adult suffrage, and a governing council with an elected majority. Self-government was granted in 1975 and independence in 1976, within the Commonwealth of Nations. In 1975 a coalition government was formed with James R. Mancham as president and France-Albert René as prime minister. In 1977, while Mancham was abroad, René became president in a coup d'état led by the Seychelles People's United Party (later restyled the Seychelles People's Progressive Front [SPPF], from 2009 the People's Party).

In 1979 a new constitution transformed Seychelles into a one-party socialist state, with René's SPPF designated the only legal party. This change was not popular with many Seychellois, and during the 1980s there were several coup attempts. Faced with mounting pressure from the country's primary sources of foreign aid, René's administration began moving toward more democratic rule in the early 1990s, with the return of multiparty politics and the promulgation of a new constitution. The country also gradually abandoned its socialist economy and began to follow market-based economic strategies by privatizing most parastatal companies, encouraging foreign investment, and focusing efforts on marketing Seychelles as an offshore business and financial hub. As Seychelles entered the 21st century, the SPPF continued to dominate the political scene. After the return of multiparty elections, René was re-elected three times before eventually resigning in April 2004 to allow Vice Pres. James Michel to succeed him as president.

In late 2004 some of the islands were hit by a tsunami, which severely damaged the environment and the country's economy. The economy was an important topic in the campaigning leading up to the presidential election of 2006, in which Michel emerged with a narrow victory to win his first elected term. He was re-elected in 2011. One of Michel's ongoing concerns was piracy in the Indian Ocean, which had surged since 2009 and threatened the



country's fishing and tourism industries. To that end, the Seychellois government worked with several other countries and international organizations to curb the illegal activity.

In October 2015 Michel called for an early presidential election, rather than wait until it was due in 2016. Michel was standing for his third term, again representing the People's Party. The election was held December 3–5, 2015. For the first time since the return of multiparty politics in 1993, the People's Party's candidate did not win outright in the first round of voting, his nearest challenger was Wavel Ramkalawan of the Seychelles National Party (SNP). The runoff election was held December 16–18. On December 19 Michel was declared the winner by a very narrow margin. In April 2016 the constitution was amended to change the number of consecutive terms that a president could serve. The number of terms was reduced from three to two.

Legislative elections were held September 8–10, 2016. For the first time since independence, the People's Party did not take a majority of the legislative seats. Instead, a coalition of opposition parties took control of the National Assembly, winning 15 of the 25 directly elected seats and receiving 4 of the 8 proportional representation seats while the People's Party won and received the rest of the directly elected and proportional representation seats. The new legislators were sworn in on September 27, 2016. Later that day Michel announced that he would step down as president, citing the need for new leadership. He formally resigned on October 16, and vice president Danny Faure was sworn in as president to complete the rest of Michel's term.

GEOGRAPHY

The Republic of Seychelles, one of the world's smallest countries, comprises 115 islands in the Indian Ocean, off East Africa. Composed of two main island groups: the Mahé group of more than 40 central, mountainous granitic islands and a second group of more than 70 outer, flat, coralline islands. Occupying a land area of 455 km² and an Exclusive Economic Zone of 1.4 km² in the western Indian Ocean. It represents an archipelago of legendary beauty that extends from between 4 and 10 degrees south of the equator and which lies between 480km and 1,600km from the east coast of Africa.

The granitic islands of the Seychelles archipelago cluster around the main island of Mahé, home to the international airport and the capital, Victoria, and its satellites Praslin and La Digue. Together, these Inner Islands form the cultural and economic hub of the nation and contain the majority of Seychelles' tourism facilities.

It's home to numerous stunning beaches, coral reefs and nature reserves, as well as rare animals such as giant Aldabra tortoises. Mahé, a hub for visiting the other islands, is home to capital Victoria. It also has the mountain rainforests of Morne Seychellois National Park and beaches, including Beau Vallon and Anse Takamaka.

Of the roughly 200 plant species found in Seychelles, some 80 are unique to the islands, including screw pines, several varieties of jellyfish trees, latanier palms, the bois rouge, the bois de fer,



Wright's gardenia, and the most famous, the coco de mer. The coco de mer—which is found on only two islands—produces a fruit that is one of the largest and heaviest known and is valued by a number of Asian cultures for believed aphrodisiac, medicinal, mystic, and other properties. The Seychellois government closely monitors the quantity and status of the trees, and, although commerce is regulated to prevent overharvesting, poaching is a concern.

Wildlife includes a remarkably diverse array of marine life, including more than 900 identified species of fish; green sea turtles and giant tortoises also inhabit the islands. Endemic species include birds such as Seychelles bulbuls and cave-dwelling Seychelles swiftlets; several species of local tree frogs, snails, and wormlike caecilians; Seychelles wolf snakes and house snakes; tiger chameleons; and others. Endemic mammals are few; both fruit and Seychelles sheath-tailed bats are endemic to the islands. Indian mynahs, barn owls, and tenrecs (small shrew-like or hedgehoglike mammals introduced from Madagascar) are also found.

Considerable efforts have been made to preserve the islands' marked biodiversity. Seychelles' government has established several nature preserves and marine parks, including the Aldabra Islands and Vallée de Mai National Park, both UNESCO World Heritage sites. The Aldabra Islands, a large atoll, are the site of a preserve inhabited by tens of thousands of giant tortoises, the world's oldest living creatures, which government conservation efforts have helped rescue from the brink of extinction. Vallée de Mai National Park is the only place where all six of the palm species endemic to Seychelles, including the coco de mer, may be found together. Cousin Island is home to a sanctuary for land birds, many endemic to the islands, including the Seychelles sunbird (a type of hummingbird) and the Seychelles brush warbler. The nearby Cousine Island is part private resort and part nature preserve, noted for its sea turtles, giant tortoises, and assorted land birds. Bird Island is the breeding ground for millions of terns, turtle doves, shearwaters, frigate birds, and other seabirds that flock there each year

Capital: Victoria

Population: 95 843 (2017) World Bank

Currency: Seychellois rupee

Continent: Africa

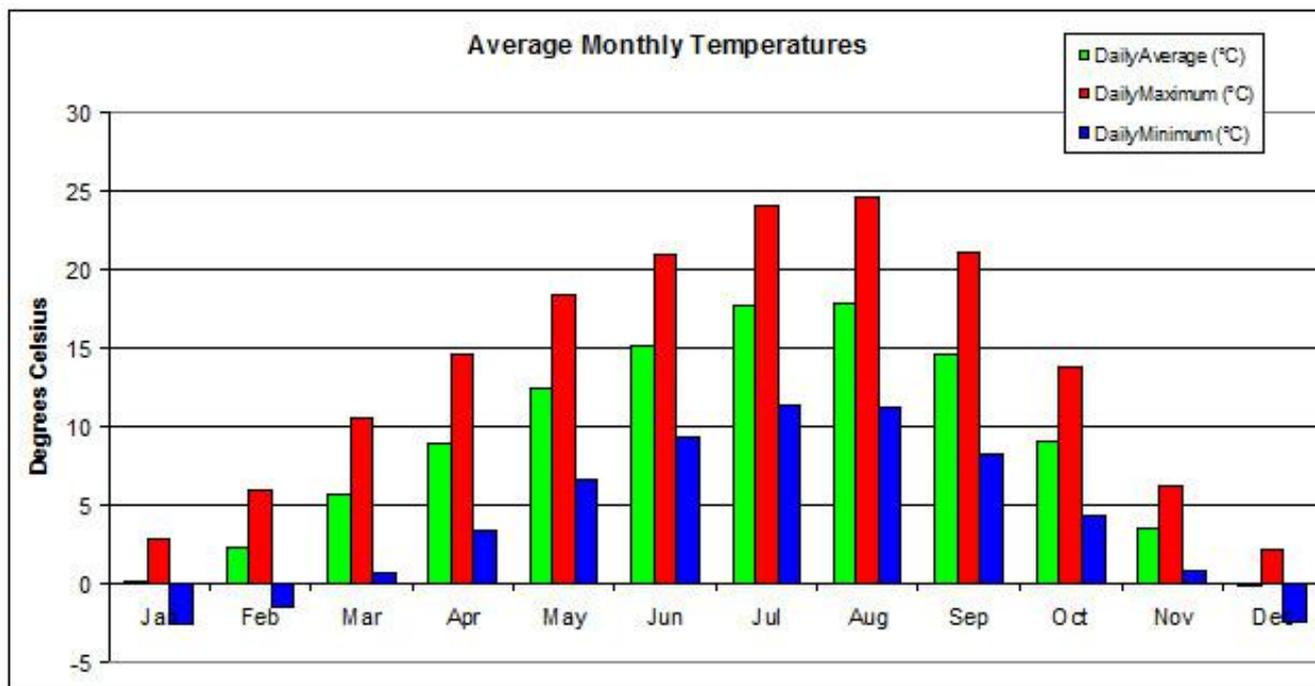
CLIMATE

The Seychelles' climate is one which is always warm and does not reach extremes of heat or cold. The temperature rarely drops below 24°C or rises above 32°C. It is generally cooler when the north-west trade winds blow during the months of November to March. The sea is generally calm and the weather warm and humid.

A larger amount of the annual rainfall falls during the months of December to February compared to other months. It is also fairly cloudy at times during those months and therefore less sunshine. The weather is hottest from December to April, and the humidity is high - often 80% or higher.



The months of May to October bring drier, cooler weather, and livelier seas - particularly on south-eastern coasts – and winds of 19 -37 kilometres per hour are common. Dry spells of two weeks or more are fairly common.



LANGUAGE

Seychellois Creole, a French-based creole language, is by far the most commonly spoken language in the archipelago and is spoken natively by about **95%** of the population. Nevertheless, the country was a British colony for over a century and a half and **English** remains the main language in government and business.

French was introduced before the British rule. It has remained in use largely because it is used by the Franco-Seychellois minority and is similar to Seychellois Creole.

TIME & INTERNATIONAL DIALING CODE

Seychelles international dialing code is **248** is followed by an area code.

The Seychelles area code table below shows the various city codes for Seychelles.

SAFETY

Although **crime** is generally non-violent, bags have been snatched, cars broken into and tourists robbed while walking at night. you should take sensible precautions to safeguard yourself and your possessions.



CURRENCY

The Seychelles **Rupee (Rs)** is the official currency.

Most ATM's are located in banks as well as in shopping areas and other various places throughout the town. ATM machines only pay out in Rupees.

Before leaving the Seychelles, you should exchange any Rupees you may still have in your possession for your native currency, you cannot take more than Rs2000 out of the Seychelles.

CREDIT CARDS

All major credit cards and debit cards are widely accepted by merchants in the Seychelles. If possible, only carry enough Rupees for the day and charge what you can to your credit cards. This is a safer way to transact business

**United States Dollars*

While many local establishments are happy to take Euros or U.S. Dollars in payment, there are still many places where it is easier to make your transactions with the local currency.

TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

Seychelles is a visa-free country which means that there are no visa requirements for any persons wishing to travel. Although a visa is not required to enter Seychelles, visitors should nevertheless have in their possession a valid passport.

A visitor's permit is issued on arrival in Seychelles to travelers visiting for the purposes of holiday, business, visiting friends or family and who also meet the following criteria:

- is not a prohibited immigrant;
- is not a holder of a valid permit which entitles the holder to reside in Seychelles;
- holds a valid return ticket or ticket for onward travel for the duration of the visit;
- has confirmed accommodation; and,
- has sufficient funds for the duration of the stay (minimum of US\$150 or equivalent per day).

In addition to documentation forms, Seychelles immigration officials will carefully monitor what you bring into the country.

It is up to the guest to ensure that passports and visas are valid for six months beyond the intended length of stay. There should be SIX blank VISA pages for any visa as well as for entry stamps on arrival. Please note these are visa pages, NOT endorsement pages. This is important as IMMIGRATION OFFICIALS WILL BE STRICT about this, especially if you are travelling between several countries during your trip.



All passport holders should verify with their travel agent or relevant consulate concerning visa entry requirements. If you are extending your journey to other countries, please establish entry requirements for those countries as well. Please ensure that you have all the necessary visas prior to departure (unless available on entry).

EMERGENCY “Paper work”

Please photograph the face page of your passports, credit cards and any other vital documents, so that you have copies of these on you.

1. **Lost Passport:** Photograph/scan a copy of your passport face page for quick reference.
2. **Lost Credit cards:** Photograph/Scan all credit cards and keep copies same as above.
(Don't scan back of Credit Cards)
3. Scan **air tickets** as above.
4. Leave a copy of these documents at home as well, with a contactable friend.

INSURANCE

It is a condition of booking, that the sole responsibility lies with the guests to ensure that they carry the correct comprehensive travel and medical insurance to cover themselves, as well as any dependents/travelling companions for the duration of their trip to Southern Africa.

FLIGHT CHECK-IN TIMES

Please check in early at all airports (at least one and a half hours prior for domestic flights, two hours prior for regional flights and three hours prior for all international flights) due to additional security which now affects international travel around the world.

Please be aware that during peak season, delays are often encountered on scheduled flights. Remember that you are on holiday... relax and enjoy the ambience, which sometimes has no sense of urgency at all!

RECONFIRMING FLIGHTS

Please ensure that your onward flights are reconfirmed, when applicable, at least 72 hours prior to flying. The camp managers will be responsible for reconfirming your local onward flights between camps, but INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS should be your responsibility.

SPECIAL OCCASIONS

Please advise us if you will be celebrating any special occasions, such as a birthday or anniversary during your trip.

DIETARY REQUIREMENTS

We do ask that on making your booking you inform us of any special dietary requirements. The camps can cater for special diets when given prior notice. Due to the camps remote locations, prior notification is important.



MEDICAL REQUIREMENTS

When making your booking with us we need to know if there are any medical conditions or allergies that may affect your safari or that we need to be aware of to facilitate transfers and movements between camps. Many of the camps and lodges are located in remote areas, so prior notice is required for particular medical needs.

HEALTH

There are a few basic health matters that require care and attention. The following points are recommended guidelines only. Please consult your doctor and also check with your health department prior to departure for any changes in health regulations.

Yellow fever vaccine is *required* for all travelers greater than one year of age arriving from a yellow-fever-infected country in Africa or the Americas and for travelers who have been in transit more than 12 hours in an airport located in a country with risk of yellow fever transmission, but is not recommended or required otherwise.

1. Malaria

Anopheles mosquitoes, which transmit the malaria parasite by their bite are present almost throughout the world. Only five areas are exceptions: Antarctic and Iceland, where **there are no mosquitoes** at all, New-Caledonia, the Central Pacific Islands **and the Seychelles**.

2. Water

Tap water is generally safe to drink in most areas of the Seychelles, but water quality is variable in undeveloped areas. If in doubt, do not drink tap water unless it has been boiled, filtered, or chemically disinfected.

It is very important that you drink plenty of water especially during the warmer months. It is generally recommended that guests drink at least 4 to 6 pints (2 to 3 liters) of water per day to limit the effects of dehydration. This excludes tea, coffee and alcoholic beverages, which act as diuretics and therefore can actually contribute to dehydration. It is recommended that you drink bottled water throughout Africa.

3. Medical Conditions

Please make us aware of any medical conditions you have prior to your arrival. This includes any allergies e.g. bee stings, nuts, shellfish etc.

4. Inoculations

As well as ensuring that your routine vaccines are up to date, there are several special vaccines that you will need for safe travel to Seychelles - including Hepatitis A, Tetanus, and Typhoid. Please consult your doctor or local travel clinic with regards to any other suggested inoculations for your travels.



IMPORTANT

There is a significant difference between the luggage allowance on International flights. 44lbs/20kg excluding hand luggage, and internal flights in some regional countries. On some regional flights here, only 33lbs/15kg is allowed.

LUGGAGE ON SCHEDULED FLIGHTS - 44lbs EXCLUDING HAND LUGGAGE

Scheduled airlines in SEYCHELLES carry a weight restriction of 44lbs (32kg's) on checked luggage per economy class traveller, and all hand luggage should not exceed the maximum dimensions of **55cm x 40cm x 20cm** (115cms). Please ensure that you comply with the applicable restrictions (further details regarding number of luggage pieces and exact dimensions, for the particular carrier can be obtained from your ticketing agent).

Please note when combining scheduled airline flights and air transfers (as specified below), then restriction will apply unless alternative arrangements have been made for the storage or separate transfer of excess luggage, which will be at an additional cost.

Sufficient locks or baggage ties for baggage safety, is advised. Sometimes a colored ribbon will identify YOUR luggage more easily if it is just a black bag!

LUGGAGE ON INTERNAL AIR TRANSFERS - 44lbs, INCLUDING HAND LUGGAGE

There are strict weight restrictions in place on light aircraft transfers for the following reasons:

- The aircrafts are designed with a maximum bodyweight and luggage weight allowance.
- Most of our airfields are over 3000ft./1000 meters above sea level and are located in the tropics, and therefore the permissible aircraft carrying capacity is reduced.
- The aircrafts also have physical space restrictions.

Some important issues must please be noted for air transfers:

Luggage, including hand luggage, is restricted to 44lbs per person. Only soft bags will be accepted, no hard suitcases can be transported, as they physically cannot fit into the aircraft. The maximum dimensions of the soft bags that can be accommodated are as follows: 10 inches wide x 12 inches high and 24 inches long. Please keep in mind that the baggage compartments on the light aircrafts are only 10 inches high, so the pilots must have the ability to manipulate the bag into the compartment.



Passengers weighing 220lbs or more, or two guests travelling together whose combined weight is 440lbs, must please advise us in advance as an extra seat for the additional weight will have to be costed into the package for safety purposes. If we are not advised of this information prior to arrival, this can cause a problem on the ground and could result in a private charter, which will be billed directly to the guest.



PLEASE NOTE: IF YOUR CAMERA EQUIPMENT IS EXCESSIVE, THEY WILL NOTICE AND ASK TO WEIGH IT, AND LIMIT YOU ACCORDINGLY.

LOST LUGGAGE

Luggage that goes missing on scheduled flights is beyond our control or the airline concerned. The airport Baggage Handling company controls what happens to passengers' luggage from when it is checked in or out until it is put on or taken off the aircraft.

We suggest that you take the following precautionary action: pack a small bag with your essentials including **any life sustaining medication, which can be carried with you as hand luggage**. If your luggage goes missing, you will still have your essential items on hand to see you through the first couple of days while we try and recover your lost baggage.

LOSS OF ARTICLES

Please note that we cannot accept any responsibility for the misplacement of any articles whilst on your travels. Naturally, we will endeavor to reunite you with your misplaced items.

CLOTHING AND ACCESSORIES

CAMOUFLAGE CLOTHING IS FORBIDDEN IN MANY AFRICAN COUNTRIES

We suggest that when in Safari Camps/lodges you wear 'bush' colors such as olive green, khaki, gray and brown. Bright and light colors should be avoided, except at night. Some hotel properties do require men to wear long trousers to dinner.

It is advisable to wear light colored clothes at night, as insects tend to avoid light clothing. Avoid wearing black and dark blue during the day as these absorb heat & attract insects.

Remember to pack the following items:

- Generally, most folk only need 4 changes of clothing for a safari.
- Long sleeved shirts for day and evening can reduce sunburn and insect bites; however short sleeves are fine as well.
- Pants, with zip-off legs ideal; alternatively shorts are great for daywear. Bush colors for daywear, light colors for night wear.
- Underwear and sleeping attire or tracksuit.
- Scarf/Pashmina/Buff for keeping the neck warm.
- Personal toiletries and medication (most camps do supply reputable branded shampoo & conditioner).
- Insect repellent is provided by the camps.
- Comfortable closed walking shoes like trainers (Avoid big heavy boots).
- Light shoes or sandals. X 1pair of each.
- Warm layers for cold evenings, and lightweight water proof/wind proof jacket.
- Sunglasses & hat with brim or peak cap.



- Sun block and lip balm (Recommended to bring minimum factor 30 SPF).
- Anti-malarial prophylactics are essential all year round.
- Last of all take a pen for those important postcards home.

Do not bring any jewelry and perfumes.

LAUNDRY

Most of the Hotels, Lodges and safari camps provide a daily laundry service. Some camps will require travellers to wash their own underwear and provide soap in the rooms for that purpose.

ELECTRICITY

Camps and Lodges in the bush areas do all have electricity. These usually rely on generator or solar power for lighting and charging electronic equipment. Please understand you may not find plug-points in your tent, but at specific points in the camp. It is recommended that guests bring their own international adaptors. Generally, electrical outlets in Mozambique are the South African style ROUND 3-pin type as shown opposite. ALL countries in southern and East Africa use 220/240 Volt AC. Adaptors are available in camps.



COMMUNICATION IN THE CAMPS/LODGES

Telecommunications in the urban areas is possible, and even some cell phone access is found. BUT in the less accessible areas do not expect there to be cell phone coverage. Many camps and lodges do have satellite-link Internet access on a restricted basis however. If this is important, enquiries should be made beforehand.

RESPECTING WILDLIFE & SAFETY WHEN STAYING AT SAFARI CAMPS/LODGES

Safety is of utmost concern to us and we request you take note of the following guidelines:

- The wild animals found in and around safari lodges and camps are not concerned about human scent and movement. THIS does NOT mean they are tame or tolerant of close approach by humans. They are still wild. Elephant, warthogs, monkeys and baboons particularly.
- Most of the safari camps are unfenced and dangerous animals wander through the camps. Many of the animals and reptiles you will see are potentially dangerous. Attacks by wild animals are rare. However, there are no guarantees that such incidents will not occur.
- Never attempt to feed or approach any wild animal on foot. This is especially important near lodges or in campsites where animals may have become accustomed to human visitors.
- Please listen to the camp staff and guides. The safety precautions need to be taken seriously, and strictly adhered to.
- Never walk on your own without a guide, particularly at night – even to your rooms. After retiring to your rooms at night, **do not** leave them.
- Observe animals silently and with a minimum of disturbance to their natural activities. Loud talking on game drives can frighten the animals away.



- Never attempt to attract an animal's attention. Don't imitate animal sounds, clap your hands, pound the vehicle or throw objects.
- Please respect your driver-guide's judgment about proximity to lions, cheetahs and leopards. Don't insist that he take the vehicle closer so you can get a better photograph. A vehicle driven too close can hinder a hunt or cause animals to abandon a hard-earned meal.
- Litter tossed on the ground can choke or poison animals and birds and is unsightly.
- Smoking is generally not permitted on game drives. Apart from the anti-social aspect, discarded cigarettes are considered a fire hazard.

TIPPING / GRATUITIES

Tipping is customary, but not compulsory. If, however, you want to tip because you have received good service, we have enclosed a brief guideline to assist you:

- **The General Safari Camp / Lodge Staff**
We recommend about US\$10 per guest per day for safari camps. This should be placed in the communal tipping box to be distributed equally amongst all the staff.
- **Transfer Driver for long transfers**
Transfer: US\$10 per person.
- **Camp/Lodge Guides**
US\$15 to US\$ 20 per person in the group, per day, depending on the quality of service.
- **Personal Butler (Only in &Beyond camps)**
US\$10 per person per day.
- **Private Guides**
Guests generally use their own judgment in this regard.
- **Porterage**
We recommend about US\$1 per bag, per movement.
- **Restaurants / Hotels**
15% is customary on meal accounts if you are satisfied with the service.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Please note that photography of government buildings, many airport buildings, State House and officials in uniform is normally strictly prohibited. Be courteous, polite and always ask permission. Please be advised that the use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (Drones) is not allowed in many of the conservation areas, due to their use in poaching operations and the disturbance caused to the wildlife and other guests.



POACHING

PLEASE BE AWARE: POACHERS ARE USING SOCIAL MEDIA OUTLETS TO TRACK AND POACH ENDANGERED WILDLIFE. SO PLEASE DO NOT POST PHOTOS OF THESE ANIMALS ON YOUR SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS. POACHERS WILL USE EVERY MEANS POSSIBLE TO FIND THESE ANIMALS, INCLUDING USING THE GEO TRACKER AND LOOKING THROUGH EVERY PHOTO TO DETERMINE THE LOCATION.

Example: If a photo of a rhino or a large-tusked elephant is posted on social media, the poachers will look at every photo in that particular photo album to determine what reserve that the animal is located on. Therefore, even if the geo tracker is turned off, a photo of the lodge or any mention of the lodge in the post will give away the location of the photographed animal.

CAMERAS & BINOCULARS

WHAT CAMERA SHOULD I HAVE ON SAFARI?

Cameras are a way of ensuring that we can record a moment in time. Sights and scenes of persons, places and in our case, wildlife and safari camps!

We take a photo as a form of a non-violent benevolent trophy. A reward and proof of a successful chase. Photographs tell it in colour! 100% of our safari guests bring a camera on safari.

Choosing a camera is fraught, as the camera industry has thrown itself into this arena wholeheartedly and made it difficult. *This short brief is to try and help you make the right choice.*

Any safari to Africa is a significant investment of thousands of dollars. It seems worthwhile to invest a few hundred in a camera that will record the event for life!

Although camera choice is a *personal one*, I have included some pointers to assist with this choice.

There are frankly FOUR main types of camera.

1. The small '**POINT & SHOOT**' variety. They are small, palm size and convenient to carry in a pocket or purse with essentially an automatic function that guarantees a good picture - in a room, a car, or when taking fairly close-up pictures of friends and family.
2. The second variety are the typical **DSLR** (Digital Single Lens Reflex) cameras that can take interchangeable lenses and photographic enthusiasts will use these. They come now with a full gamut of electronic settings to facilitate taking photos in a variety of light conditions and generally have a video setting as well. There are a number of really good brands and models on sale, BUT the lenses come at a price.
3. The third variety is '**COMPACT**' cameras. These have been built to bridge the gap between the Point & Shoot, and the DSLR's! These incredible cameras weigh about 30% of the DSLR's, and yet have built-in lenses that easily rival the 'big' lenses used typically for sports and wildlife photography. They are truly amazing!



These cameras have *the same range* of adjustments seen on the heavier, semi- and professional cameras, AND, the lens 'reach' of the heavy glass lenses too! There is a built in flash, movie facility, screen view, viewfinder, 'Intelligent' options, Automatic, S, M, P, and A parameter functions as well. The lenses range from X20 to X60 in magnification, giving the user equivalent 300mm to sometimes 500mm! A small number of manufacturers are producing an innovative camera without all the moving parts of a typical camera.

4. **'MIRROR LESS'** cameras. These cameras will in time compete with the traditional DSLR cameras. There is no viewfinder. One sees the image through the rear screen. There is no internal mirror and complex moving parts...hence the term 'mirror less', and significant weight reduction. These cameras are lighter, have lighter lenses, without any loss of image quality. Interchangeable lenses are available in some brands, up to 250mm, but rarely larger.

The LENS is another important factor in selecting a camera. Again, the small 'Point & Shoot' cameras will have small, retractable lenses that work well in a room or close setting and so will collect very poor wildlife images, taken at a distance because they lack the necessary 'zoom' ability, which magnifies the object onto the sensor plate.

The DSLR gives one the option to fit a zoom lens of different sizes to magnify the image in the camera. Essentially the greater the zoom numbers the bigger the image. For example, a 18 – 150 zoom, is going to be a poor lens for wildlife photography, but great for photographing houses or portraits! A 70 – 300 zoom is far better suited for wildlife, as is any lens from 300mm onwards.

The better Compact cameras now have lenses that have a x10 up to x60 ability! These are significant 'zoom' numbers and will certainly give the user a wonderful result. We recommend a camera lens with an equivalent zoom of at least 300mm.

PLEASE BEAR IN MIND ONE CAN HIRE LENSES NOW FOR A FRACTION OF THE RETAIL COST.

Other Factors to consider:

1. Weight
2. Quality of camera
3. Who is going to use the camera?
4. What do you want to spend on this camera?
5. What are you going to do with the pictures?

Please ensure that you have enough memory cards, film and batteries for the duration of the trip, as these are not always available locally. Recharging facilities for video and camera equipment is generally available at most camps and lodges. It is advisable to bring your own adaptor and re-charging equipment. Ensure your equipment is in a padded, dust and heatproof case, as dust will get 'in' everywhere!



WHAT BINOCULARS SHOULD I TAKE ON SAFARI?

Binoculars are a vital part of every safari, and should be considered as important as a camera or decent hat.

Most game viewing is carried out from a vehicle and so the game will commonly be within 150 feet of the vehicle. Larger animals, birds (even for non-birders) and small animals form a main part of the wildlife seen on a safari.

Many people regard binoculars as an unnecessary piece of equipment, used once and forgotten. *Bino's* as they become known, may be used on safari, again on the second safari, your kids safari, at the local 'ball game', on hunting & fishing trips, and for birding from the ease of your verandah. Choosing which to have needs professional help ...Let me try!

FOR SAFARIS, we recommend 7x40, 7x50; 8x40; 8.5x42

10 x 42 is recommended for serious birders, those with a 'steady hand' and more sedentary use from a vehicle, a hide or on a tripod.

The small 10 x 25 binoculars, often touted as 'convenient' by sales people are of little functional use on safari as they are too small to use in a vehicle quickly and for extended periods, and limit the amount of light coming into the binocular.

Brands

There are a number of very good value brands, but the better reviews mention CELESTRON GRANITE, MINOX, NIKON, BUSHNELL, PENTAX and at the top of the pile are LEICA, LEITZ and SWAROVSKY, but these are expensive. Naturally your personal considerations such as budget and availability will play a big part in the selection process.

Again, any safari to Africa is a serious investment of resources and it seems rather shortsighted to limit ones' enjoyment of the trip by not purchasing or borrowing decent equipment to facilitate getting the most out of the safari!

QUALITY & FEEDBACK

We pride ourselves in running quality itineraries and offering the best experience.

If you have a problem, please bring it to our attention at the time, thereby giving us a chance to try and rectify it immediately on site, as it will be more difficult to resolve later on.

YOU have chosen a fabulous way to have a holiday, and you will never forget it.

Enjoy your travels!

