



South Africa

Pre-Departure Information



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

South Africa is a world in one country. This magnificent country has a wealth of natural beauty, spell-binding history, incredible wildlife destinations and wonderful people! It is also the most sophisticated country on the continent, and that means the banking, communications, transport and air traffic infrastructure is at a first world standard.

Johannesburg is the commercial capital, but Pretoria is really the heart of the country and official capital. Bloemfontein and Cape Town both are judicial and legislative capitals too. Parliament moves once a year down to the Cape for six months and then returns to Pretoria.

The country became independent of Britain firstly as a Union, and then as a Republic, and has successfully governed itself since the 1940's. The apartheid years isolated the country from the rest of the world and it suffered accordingly. In 1994, after Nelson Mandela's release from prison and subsequent presidency the country has risen to new heights and growth and development continue at a positive pace. The ANC government inherited a people with a huge desire to grow and move beyond the past, and a power-house of a country. However current questionable political actions by the ANC are creating very negative news and local dissatisfaction with the government is being widely seen too. This has also coloured western perceptions of the country as a viable holiday destination!

South Africa is 471 443 square miles in area and occupies the entire southern tip of the continent. It has several significant biomes, including the fynbos in the Cape, which is unique in the world. There are mountain ranges with seasonal snow-topped peaks, and deserts, coastal tropical forests and savannas, montane grasslands and hot, dry lowland areas where the wildlife predominates.

There are literally scores of conservation areas and reserves, national parks and forest reserves including marine and littoral zones that protect the countries natural resource base. South Africans as a race of people are very aware of wildlife and a number of NGO's are active keeping people informed of current conservation issues, particularly the Rhino Crisis. Part of the problem facing the conservation groups is getting the ANC government to stop paying lip-service and DO something concrete in the bid to halt the poaching of rhino, abalone, pangolins and other natural resources!

The official language is English, but 10 other languages are also listed. Certainly Xhosa, Zulu, Sotho and Afrikaans are widely spoken as well. The population is estimated at around 49 million people, and a significant proportion of that are below 20 years of age.

Oliver Tambo International Airport is the main airport and Lanseria International Airport is commonly used as a second for local and regional flights into Johannesburg.

Johannesburg is the main travel hub for the region, with most international carriers landing here weekly and some have several flights a day. All the regional (and SADCC) capitals link with Johannesburg.



CLIMATE

Southern Africa's **summer** is normally from October to April with hot to extremely hot days and nights. **Winter** is generally from May to September with dry and warm to hot days. The nights are very cold, (as low as 1°C in some areas) especially in the early morning.

The rainy season is normally from November / December - February / March with erratic rainfall 600mm in the north to less than 200mm in the south. The wettest months are usually December, January & February.

***Please note that Cape Town has a Mediterranean climate, which differs considerably from the rest of the sub region and should be considered as opposite to the rest of the region.**

South Africa

Temperature: These are the average lows and highs

		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
°C	JHB	15 26	14 25	13 24	11 22	08 19	05 16	05 16	07 19	09 22	14 24	13 25	14 25
°F	JHB	59 79	57 77	55 75	52 72	46 66	41 61	41 61	45 66	48 72	54 75	55 77	57 77
°C	DBN	21 28	21 28	20 28	17 26	13 24	10 23	10 23	12 23	15 23	17 24	18 25	20 27
°F	DBN	70 82	70 82	68 82	63 79	55 75	50 73	50 73	54 73	59 73	63 75	64 77	68 81
°F	CPT	16 26	15 26	14 25	12 23	10 20	08 18	07 17	07 18	08 19	10 21	13 24	15 25
°F	CPT	61 79	59 79	57 77	54 73	50 68	46 64	45 63	45 64	46 66	50 70	55 75	59 77

rainy months

CURRENCY - ZAR

The currency is the SOUTH AFRICAN RAND, which is used only in South Africa and not in the neighboring countries. ATM's will only yield RAND.

CREDIT CARDS

When traveling in South Africa, VISA or MASTERCARD is widely accepted. DINERS and AMERICAN EXPRESS are NOT accepted everywhere, especially in smaller towns and some of the camps and lodges. Gratuities in the form of US dollars are preferred, in smaller denominations like \$50's and less.

*United States Dollars

Please note that ONLY POST 2006 notes are accepted; so only bring the newer notes, in small denominations, fifty dollar notes and less.

The bigger banks and Automatic Teller Machines will advance local currency against a credit card, converted at the daily exchange rate.



TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

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).

Travel in Southern Africa is normally conducted in English and it is therefore beneficial for guests to have knowledge of English and be able to communicate in that language.

EMERGENCY “Paper work”

Please photograph the Face page of your passports, credit cards and vital travel documents with your cell phone / iPad or Tablet so that you have a copy on you in case they get misplaced.

Scan air tickets as above.

Leave a copy of these documents at home as well, with a contactable friend.

IMPORTANT

****NB – NEW TRAVEL DOCUMENTS REQUIRED FOR CHILDREN TRAVELLING TO SOUTH AFRICA****

From 1st June 2015, new regulations aimed at improving the safety of children travelling in and out of South Africa have been implemented. Children under the age of 18 will require an **original** or **certified copy** of their unabridged birth certificate together with a valid passport when travelling through South African borders.

- **What is an unabridged birth certificate?**

It's a birth certificate that reflects the particulars of both parents of the child. Those from countries, who do not automatically issue unabridged certificates, must apply for the document well before their travel date.

- **Child Travelling with Both Parents**

Parents must produce an unabridged birth certificate and a valid passport.

- **Child Travelling with One Parent**

Parent must produce an unabridged birth certificate and a valid passport and a court order / death certificate for the missing parent/ affidavit confirming the absent parent has given permission for the child to travel.

- **Child Travelling with Guardian**

Guardian must produce an unabridged birth certificate and a valid passport and a court order / death certificate for any parents who have died/ affidavit confirming the parents have given permission for the child to travel.



- **Child Unaccompanied**

Child must produce an unabridged birth certificate and a valid passport and a court order / death certificate if applicable for the parents/ affidavit confirming permission to travel, from both parents or legal guardian. A letter from person who is to receive the child in South Africa including their full contact details and a certified copy of their ID / passport must be produced.

LANGUAGE

There are 11 official languages in South Africa, plus several unofficial ones which are used by immigrants from India, Europe and mid-Africa. However, English is the main means of communication in the whole sub-region.

TIME & INTERNATIONAL DIALING CODE

South Africa is 2 hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time (GMT).
Telephone code: +27

SAFETY

Please note ALL of our passengers arriving at Oliver Tambo International airport are met and escorted through Immigration and Customs formalities. This is a company courtesy we extend to all our guests, not because we are concerned about their safety, but because it helps expedite their arrival.

Johannesburg has an unenviable reputation as a crime ridden city. It is no worse than many American cities we visit annually. One just needs to be aware of risky situations and behave accordingly to prevent being a 'victim'. Naturally, foreigners arriving in a strange country are an automatic target for thieves. You are escorted to the hotel by an AFRICA INSCRIBED representative, who assists you with check-in on arrival.

Please note that travelling in any city carries safety risks. When travelling by vehicle, always lock your doors and place handbags etc. out of sight, in the trunk or on the floor. In the rural areas and bush there is no risk to be concerned about.

As regards personal items, most lodges and camps either provide safes in the rooms, or a central safe in 'the office' to secure passports, tickets and money.

NB: 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.

SPECIAL OCCASIONS

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



IMPORTANT

There is a significant difference between the luggage allowance on International flights (44lbs) excluding hand luggage, and local in South Africa air transfers, which is 44lbs, including hand luggage. If flying to Namibia, or Zimbabwe, on light aircraft the luggage weight is only 33lbs.

LUGGAGE ON SCHEDULED FLIGHTS - 44lbs EXCLUDING HAND LUGGAGE

Scheduled airlines in SOUTH AFRICA generally carry a weight restriction of 44lbs (20kg's) on checked luggage per economy class traveller, and a carry-on, which may include your photographic equipment. 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 any itinerary, which includes 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 metres 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 included 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 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). X1 pair.
- Light shoes or sandals. X 1 pair 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 more remote areas have electricity. These usually rely on generator and solar power for lighting and refrigeration and charging electronic equipment. Please understand you may not find plug-points in your tent, but you will find a charging station at the main lodge/tent area. It is recommended that guests bring their own international adaptors. Generally, electrical outlets in South Africa are the ROUND 3-pin type as shown opposite. ALL countries in southern and East Africa use 220/240 Volt AC. Adaptors are available in camps.



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.

1) Malaria

Malaria is common within Africa. Although not widespread, it is encountered anywhere where wet conditions prevail and settlements exist. It is also strongly affected by seasonal conditions; therefore it is best to be prepared any time one travels to Africa.

Malaria prophylactic recommendations for travellers:

Expert opinion differs regarding the best approach to malaria prophylaxis. It is important to bear in mind that malaria may be contracted despite chemoprophylaxis, especially in areas where chloroquine resistance has been reported. Both chloroquine-resistant and normal strains of malaria are prevalent in Africa.

Please remember that the best precaution is the preventative kind:

- Wear long-sleeved shirts and trousers/slacks in the evenings.
- Apply insect repellent to backs of hands, ankles and throat/ neck area.
- Please use the mosquito net over your bed where supplied/available.
- If staying in a bungalow or tent, the staff will spray with a suitable insecticide to kill any mosquitoes that may have flown into your room.
- Mosquito coils are also effective.

2) Tick Bite Fever

Ticks can be found in the wilderness of Africa, tick bites can possibly lead to tick bite fever. Symptoms of tick bite fever include, headache and painful, enlarged lymph glands in the area of the bite. There may also be a boil at the bite-site, with a blueish scab. If you experience any of these symptoms after returning home from your travel, please visit your doctor and advise them of the possibility of tick bite fever. Precautions can be taken to avoid being bitten when going on bush walks; these precautions include wearing long trousers tucked into socks and boots.

LYMES DISEASE IS NOT YET A THREAT IN AFRICA.



3) Water

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 litres) 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.

4) 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.

5) Inoculations

Please consult your doctor or local travel clinic with regards to any other suggested inoculations for your travels.

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.

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.



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.

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**
US\$10 per person
- **Camp/Lodge Guides**
US\$15 to 20 per person in the group, per day.
- **Personal Butler (Only in &Beyond camps)**
US\$10 per person per day
- **Private Guides**
Normally these individuals make all the difference to a safari, and their roles are more involved than just guiding. 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.

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.

RECOMMENDED READING

We recommend the following books for all travellers to Southern Africa:

- Scramble for Africa - Thomas Pakenham (General historical text on Africa)
- Jock of the Bushveld – Sir Percy Fitzpatrick
- Good Morning, Mr. Mandela – Zelda la Grange
- The White Tribe of Africa – David Harrison
- The Elephant Whisperer - Lawrence Anthony
- A South African Eden - James Steven Hamilton
- Adrift on the Veld – Denys Reitz
- Mhudi – Sol Plaatje
- My Traitors Heart – Riaan Malan
- Mafeking Road – Herman Charles Bosman

Birding

1. Sasol Birds of Southern Africa. eSasol Birds also available.
2. Newman's Birds of Southern Africa
3. Roberts Bird App for Smart Phones

Mammals

1. Mammals of Southern Africa - Chris & Tilde Stuart. E-version also available.
2. Field guide to Mammals of Southern Africa - R.H. Smithers
3. eGuide to Mammals of Southern Africa App for Smart Phones & Tablets

Films

1. Invictus
2. Tsotsi
3. Cry The Beloved Country
4. The Gods Must be Crazy
5. Red Dust
6. Zulu (1964)
7. Circles in The Forest

Most Safari companies carry a set of reference material on all their vehicles. However, if you are a keen birder we recommend that you bring your own bird book (Everyone should bring their own pair of BINOCULARS in order to get the most out of the safari)

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 (RHINOS & LARGED-TUSKED ELEPHANTS). SO PLEASE DO NOT POST PHOTOS OF THESE ANIMALS ON YOUR SCIOAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS. POACHERS WILL USE EVERY MEANS POSSIBLE TO FIND THESE ANIAMALS, INCLUDING USING THE GEO TRACKER AND LOOKING THROUGH EVERY PHOTO TO DETERMINE THE LOCATION.

Example: If a photo of a rhino or a larged-tusked elephant is posted on social media, the poachers will look at every photo in that particular photo album to determine what reserve that 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 game will commonly be within 150 feet of the vehicle. Larger animals, birds 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.

Have a wonderful safari!

