



Zambia

Pre-Departure Information



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

Zambia is a landlocked, fertile and mineral-rich country on the Southern African plateau. It is bordered by: (clockwise from the north) the United Republic of Tanzania, Malawi, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Namibia (via the Caprivi Strip), Angola and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Archaeological findings at Kabwe indicate that Zambia was inhabited around 10,000 BCE. David Livingstone, the British missionary and explorer, travelled through Zambia in the mid-19th century. He was followed by British settlers in the 1880s and 1890s. Arab slave-trading flourished in the territory throughout the 19th century, until it was ended by the British in 1893.

In 1889, the British South Africa Company received a Royal Charter to explore, develop and administer the territory. In 1924 the company ceded administrative control of Zambia, called Northern Rhodesia, to the British Crown and serious exploitation of the country's main resource, copper, began. The capital moved from Livingstone to Lusaka in 1935. The Federation of Northern and Southern Rhodesia and Nyasaland, with its own constitution, existed from 1953 to 1963.

In the mid-1950s Kenneth Kaunda founded the Zambia African National Congress (ZANC), a breakaway from the more conservative African National Congress (ANC), to fight for civil and voting rights for the African population. ZANC was quickly banned by the colonial authorities, and Kaunda arrested. During his internment, his followers evaded the ban by remoulding the ZANC as the United National Independence Party (UNIP), taking the name from the main platform of its programme. Kaunda became chairman of the UNIP on his release in 1960. In turn, the UNIP was outlawed but it had caught the popular imagination and political demonstrations spread across the country. The UK accepted the demands and, in January 1964, introduced a new constitution giving the country internal self-government, and organising elections. UNIP emerged as the majority party and proceeded towards independence; the Republic of Zambia became independent and a member of the Commonwealth on 24 October 1964.

Within a decade of independence, economic conditions worsened. Demand for copper was already beginning to fall and there was tumult in Southern Africa. Landlocked Zambia was badly affected by all the major conflicts of the period. The closure of the border with Zimbabwe, then Rhodesia (under the sanctions programme aimed at Ian Smith's illegal regime), disrupted exports. Civil war broke out in Angola and, in 1975, the Benguela railway was closed. Mozambique's long battle against the Renamo dissidents began shortly after its independence in 1975; rail and oil lines were targets for attack. Sanctions against South Africa also affected Zambia's trade and transport. Refugees from these troubled countries and Namibia (engaged in the independence war with South Africa) were given sanctuary in Zambia.

The UNIP government of Kenneth Kaunda created a one-party state (lasting from 1973 until 1991) in an unsuccessful attempt to strengthen national unity. A coup plot in 1980 involved local business leaders and the Governor of the Bank of Zambia. Several trade union leaders, including Frederick Chiluba, were detained during a wave of strikes in 1981, unions now having become the main focus of opposition to UNIP. Popular discontent was fuelled by the effects of IMF-backed recovery programmes. From 1986, demonstrations (sometimes violent) against food price increases began to take a more political form, leading to demands for a more democratic system of government.



In March 1994 the government appointed a commission to rewrite the constitution and a draft new constitution was submitted to the President in June 1995, the commission recommending that it should be approved by a national referendum. The government argued that it should instead be adopted by the National Assembly before the elections that were due in November 1996. The Assembly did so in June 1996, despite international criticism and the suspension of some aid. Among controversial government amendments to the constitution were clauses that specified that a President could serve a maximum of two five-year terms, thus disallowing the candidacy of Kenneth Kaunda, former President for 27 years and presidential candidate of the opposition UNIP. UNIP also objected to clauses debarring any person from candidacy whose parents are not or were not Zambian citizens (Kaunda's parents came from Malawi).

Most of the opposition parties boycotted the November 1996 elections (UNIP because its leader was debarred under the new constitution). There was a landslide victory for the MMD. But because of the boycott, many leading opposition parties did not have any seats in the National Assembly. Turnout was 56 per cent of those registered to vote, although it is estimated that only 50 per cent of those eligible were registered. The MMD won 131 of the 150 Assembly seats, and Chiluba won 73 per cent of the presidential vote. The largest opposition party was then the National Party, with five seats.

Topography

Most of Zambia is high plateau, deeply entrenched by the Zambezi river (and its tributaries, the Kafue and Luangwa) and the Luapula river. The Zambezi flows to the south, turning eastwards to make the border with Zimbabwe. In the north are three great lakes: the Tanganyika, Mweru and Bangweulu. The man-made Lake Kariba stretches along the southern border. The Mafinga Mountains form part of a great escarpment running down the east side of the Luangwa river valley. The country rises to a higher plateau in the east.

The country comprises ten provinces (from south to north): Southern, Western, Lusaka, Central, Eastern, North-Western, Copperbelt, Northern, Muchinga (whose creation was announced in October 2011) and Luapula.

Environment

The most significant environmental issues are: deforestation, soil erosion, and desertification; health risk posed by inadequate water treatment facilities; threat to big game populations by poaching; and air pollution and resulting acid rain in the areas surrounding mining and refining operations in Copperbelt Province.

Vegetation

Forest – mostly savannah bushveld – covers 66 per cent of the land area, having declined at 0.3 per cent p.a. 1990–2010. The high eastern plateau consists of open grassy plains with small trees and some marshland. Arable land comprises five per cent of the total land area.

Wildlife

Zambia has a wealth of wildlife, including big mammals and numerous species of antelopes. There are 19 national parks and 34 game management areas, about one-third of the country's area. South Luangwa has one of Africa's largest elephant populations. Kafue National Park has the largest number of antelope species of any African park, including the rare red lechwe, an aquatic antelope. It is also a home of the fish eagle, Zambia's national emblem. Decline in animal numbers has been slowed by the government's commitment to wildlife conservation, and the enforcement of measures against poaching and weapon-carrying in the conservation areas. There are 233 mammal species, of which ten are thought to be endangered (2014).



CLIMATE

Tropical, but seldom unpleasantly hot, except in the valleys. There are three seasons: a cool dry season April–August; a hot dry season August–November; and a wet season, which is even hotter, November–April. Frost occurs in some areas in the cool season. Rainfall is 508–1,270 mm p.a.

Zimbabwe & Zambia

Temperature: These are the average lows and highs

		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
°C	Vic Falls	17 32	17 30	18 31	14 29	10 29	07 25	08 25	08 28	11 33	11 34	15 31	17 31
°F	Vic Falls	63 90	63 86	64 84	58 84	50 77	45 77	48 82	48 82	57 91	51 93	64 88	63 88

rainy months

LANGUAGE

The official language of Zambia is English. It is used to conduct to lead; to manage official business and is the medium of instruction in schools. The main local language, especially in Lusaka, is Nyanja. However, Bemba and Nyanja are spoken in the urban areas in addition to many other indigenous languages.

TIME

Zambia is 2 hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time (GMT).

Telephone code: +260

SAFETY

Zambia is generally very safe, but in the cities and tourist areas there is always a chance of being targeted by muggers or con artists.

Please note that travelling in any city carries safety risks. Please exercise the same caution as regards personal safety as you would traveling in any foreign city anywhere in the world. When traveling 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.

CURRENCY

- The Zambian currency is the Kwacha and it fluctuates quite regularly.
- Payments within Zambia can be made in *Kwachas only*, by law, even if the price is quoted in USD. Foreign currency will not be accepted once you have cleared immigration at the airport.
- There is no limit to the importation of foreign currency, provided it is declared on arrival through a currency declaration form.
- Exchange of foreign currency is carried out at authorised banks and bureaux de change. There are many bureaux at the central shopping areas in the main towns.



CREDIT CARDS

- Most hotels, restaurants, travel agencies and the bigger shops will take credit cards.
- Most of the bigger banks will advance local currency against a credit card.
- Most banks have ATM's which accept Visa cards for cash.
- Visa is more readily accepted than MasterCard or American Express.
- ATMs are available within Lusaka, Livingstone and other major towns in Zambia.

TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

- Passports must be valid for at least six months *beyond* the intended length of stay.
- There should be six blank pages for any visa as well as for entry stamps on arrival. Please ensure that you have a minimum of three blank pages in your passport upon entry.
- Visas are required by most Commonwealth nationals, please ensure that you have all the necessary visas prior to departure (unless available on entry).
- If extending your journey to other countries, establish entry requirements for those countries as well.
- If you are travelling on from Zambia, some countries will require you to have a yellow fever vaccination certificate (see Travel Health below).

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 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 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.

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; it is therefore 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 the backs of hands, ankles and neck and throat area.
- Please use the mosquito net over your bed where supplied/available.
- If staying in a bungalow or tent, 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. 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.

LYME'S 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 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.

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

Prevalent diseases where appropriate precautionary measures are recommended include cholera, diphtheria, hepatitis A, hepatitis B, malaria, rabies, schistosomiasis (bilharzia) 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 only 33lbs/15kg is allowed.

In East Africa, only 33lbs/15kg is allowed, including hand luggage.

LUGGAGE ON SCHEDULED FLIGHTS - 44lbs EXCLUDING HAND LUGGAGE

Scheduled airlines in ZAMBIA 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 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.



The standard voltage is 230 V and the standard frequency is 50 Hz. The best power adapter for Zambia will be a Type G power adapter ^[1] which will allow you to use any 230 volt device or appliance.

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**
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.



RECOMMENDED READING

- Zambia (Bradt travel Guide: Fifth Edition) by **Chris McIntyre**.
- Mrs. Pollifax on Safari by **Dorothy Gilman**.
- Secrets of the Savanna and The Eye of the Elephant by **Mark and Cordelia Owens**.
- North of South: An African Journey by **Shiva Naipaul**.

Birding

1. A Field Guide to Zambian Birds not found in Southern Africa Dylan Aspinwall and Carl Beel
2. Field Guide to the Birds of East Africa John Fanshawe, Norman Arlott, John Gale, Brian Small
3. Newman's Birds of Southern Africa
4. Roberts Bird of Southern Africa. E-version available now.

Mammals

1. The Kingdon Pocket Guide to African Mammals
2. Jonathan Kingdon
3. Mammals of Southern Africa - Chris & Tilde Stuart
4. Field guide to Mammals of Southern Africa - R.H. Smithers
5. eGuide to Mammals of Southern Africa

Films

1. Killing Heat
2. Eighteam
3. I Am Not A Witch
4. Zambia's Boxing Star (also known as Between Rings)

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 SOCIAL 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 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.

Have a wonderful safari!

