



Zimbabwe

Pre-Departure Information



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

Zimbabwe was enjoying a much needed respite from the three decades of dreadful corruption, gross mismanagement and negativity brought about by the tyrant Robert Mugabe, leader the ZANU PF government! The 'new' president, Emmerson Mnangagwa is from the same political party, but he appeared to be trying to 'right the wrongs' and crass destruction of a beautiful and promising country. It certainly is a gem, despite the political issues that have plagued the country over the past decades. The country is landlocked and covers an area of 150 871 square miles, with the highest mountain being Mount Nyangani, on the eastern border reaching 9000 feet asl. Nyanga resembles parts of Scotland, so similar is the climate and topography there!

Harare is the capital of Zimbabwe, whilst Bulawayo and Mutare are the second and third largest cities respectively. Harare International Airport handles all international air traffic, except for travelers arriving at Victoria Falls direct. Harare is 5500 feet asl, making the airport one of the highest in Africa, along with Oliver Tambo International Airport in Johannesburg. The road and traffic infrastructure has deteriorated significantly since independence in most towns, so driving in the city itself is a horrendous experience for westerners, but there are signs that the government is starting to correct this! The main rural roads however, are still in reasonable condition.

English is the official language, and although there are essentially only two major tribes, the Mashona and the Ndebele there are a number of dialects spoken in the country, whose population is estimated at around 13 million. Some 3 million Zimbabweans still live outside the country at this time due to the political issues there but there is a steady trickle returning to the country from every country on the planet!

The country's economy was agriculturally based, but this has declined drastically in recent years, due to political bullying of white farmers, and mining has increased substantially. Gold, coal and smaller deposits of uranium and cobalt are mined along with recent deposits of gem diamonds! Large numbers of small- scale miners have been allowed to destroy river banks in gold bearing areas, with massive environmental degradation as a result.

Tourism is once again on the rise, and despite the dastardly political efforts of incompetent people, and foreign influences by Chinese nationals now living in the country, the national parks are still intact and there is an increase in private wildlife conservancies which are having a very positive impact on wildlife populations. Hwange, Mana Pools, Ghona re Zhou and the Zambezi National Parks are the main parks that travelers may be familiar with. The Victoria Falls, a World Heritage Site, is possibly the best- known destination still, and scheduled flights arrive there several times a day from regional capitals, but mainly South Africa.

Zimbabwe has been through some tough times and there may be light at the end of the tunnel. Despite the media-driven predictions, Zimbabwe still offers foreign visitors a safe and exciting holiday! The people and staff in all the safari businesses are only too pleased to be of help and love to have foreign visitors in their country. The wildlife experiences are outstanding and the freedom that guides have in the national parks and associated wildlife areas ensures that visitors have the best opportunities still.



CLIMATE

Zimbabwe enjoys a mild to warm climate with warm to hot spring and summers, and cold to cool winters. The topography is such that there are mountains along the eastern border with Mozambique, a central watershed runs NE to SW across the country, and on both sides of this watershed are lowveld areas, of around 3000 feet asl, which are dry and hot for much of the year. These peripheral areas are the main wildlife zones.

Temperatures

Winter months: June – mid August. 40F to 60F.

Spring to summer months: September to March. 80F to 95F.

Rainy Season: mid-November to mid-March. (Peak rains Dec/Jan)

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	06 25	08 28	14 33	18 34	18 31	17 31
°F	Vic Falls	63 90	63 86	57 84	50 84	45 77	43 77	46 82	48 82	57 91	64 93	64 88	63 88

rainy months

LANGUAGE

There are 3 official languages in Zimbabwe, 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. The main languages are SHONA, NDEBELE and ENGLISH.

TIME

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

Telephone code: +263

SAFETY

Despite the political upheavals (Jan 2019) travel by road is still safe, but local advice is strongly recommended for foreigners traveling on their own.

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

Zimbabwe's currency issues have been a problem for years now! The government recently brought out another 'ZIMBABWE DOLLAR BOND NOTE', which is essentially absolutely worthless!! However, a new electronic 'ECO_cash' has almost totally replaced physical cash, it is available only if you are resident. Zimbabwe adopted the United States Dollar (\$) as the official currency about five years ago. As visitors therefore, US dollars are prime, and is actually valued higher than the ZIMBABWE DOLLAR despite the supposed comparable value. There is a desperate shortage of cash, so use small notes wherever possible, as change is not readily available in USD, and silver coins from South Africa and Botswana may be given. **Zimbabwe Dollars** are also the only currency offered by the Automated Teller Machines, which are found in all the main cities and large towns.

- * *Only bills/notes are used, so one may receive change in South African Rand or Botswana Pula coins.*
- * *Only 'new' USD bills, minted post 2006, are accepted. US\$100 and US\$50 notes are not widely accepted due to counterfeit bills in circulation, so bring smaller denomination bills*

NB:CREDIT CARDS (Jan 2019)

- Visa and MasterCard are usually accepted throughout Zimbabwe, but American Express and Diners Club are not accepted.
- Most hotels, restaurants, travel agencies and bigger shops will take credit cards. The bigger banks will advance local currency against a credit card. Please note that in remote areas, credit cards are not accepted so it is preferable to travel with cash.
- When having your card processed for a payment, please ensure you are physically present to prevent the temptation of fraud. Times are tough.

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 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.

All passport holders should verify with their travel agent or relevant consulate concerning visa entry requirements. If 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 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. ALSO Leave a copy of these documents at home as well, with a contactable friend.

MEDICAL & TRAVEL 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.

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.

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.

SPECIAL OCCASIONS

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



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, notably WET 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 *pale coloured* 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....but it has been found in local ticks, but as yet is in such low density as to not be rated as a threat to humans.*

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**

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 and INTERNAL/REGIONAL flights.

International flights allow 44lbs/20kg excluding hand luggage, HOWEVER internal flights in some regional countries, for example Zimbabwe and Botswana only 44lbs/20 kg is allowed including hand luggage!

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

LUGGAGE ON SCHEDULED FLIGHTS - 44lbs EXCLUDING HAND LUGGAGE

Scheduled airlines in ZIMBABWE 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/ 20kg 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 ZIMBABWE & SOME OTHER 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

All 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 international adaptors. Generally, electrical outlets in Zimbabwe are the SQUARE, 3-pin, British. 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**

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

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

- David Livingstone – Tim Jeal
- Mukiwa – Peter Godwin. (Very honest personal account of Rhodesia during the 1970's)
- The Sunbird – Wilbur Smith (A good novel)
- The Great Betrayal – Iain Douglas Smith. (Biography)
- A Few Hard Men – Hannes Wessels. (Rhodesian SAS)
- Zambesia, Englands Eldorado in Africa – Peter Mathers
- Love in the Driest Season – Neely Tucker
- African Tears – Cathy Buckle

Birding

1. Sasol Birds of Southern Africa. E-version available.
2. Newman's Birds of Southern Africa
3. Roberts Bird of Southern Africa. E-version available now.

Mammals

1. Mammals of Southern Africa - Chris & Tilde Stuart
2. Field guide to Mammals of Southern Africa - R.H. Smithers
3. eGuide to Mammals of Southern Africa



Films

1. Okavango – Jewel of the Kalahari - BBC series
2. Cry, the Beloved Country
3. The Gods must be Crazy
4. Blood Diamonds

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 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 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!

