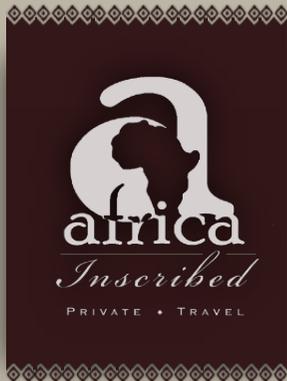




What Camera Should I Have On Safari?



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. An interesting statistic, in a world where success is measured in statistics!

Choosing a camera is fraught with choices 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 hundreds 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

what 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. (Please bear in mind one can hire lenses now for a fraction of their retail cost to you and !!)

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.



Point & Shoot



DSLR



Compact



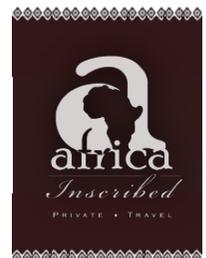
Mirrorless



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The Lens

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's give 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.

Other Factors to consider:

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

Weight

Lugging a heavy camera around on any holiday is a drag...more so if Dad or Mum is the traditional 'carrier' of family bits 'n pieces.

Aircraft have a limited weight capacity, which is why there are luggage weight limits. Even the huge intercontinental jets have a weight limit.

On safari, the smaller 12 seater Cessna's have a weight limit of 33lbs, which now includes your hand luggage! That means your camera as well.

There comes a point when there has to be a choice between that extra pair of shoes, shampoo or maybe that pair of long pants....OR the camera!

Choose the camera.

You cannot take pictures with shoes or clothes, and there are quality amenities in most of the camps.

Therefore, the compact cameras are generally less than a third as heavy as typical digital SLR's. Most have fixed lenses so you don't have extra lenses to worry about and lose, AND still have the versatility to shoot close up and distant pictures.



Compact



Compact compared to a full bag of DSLR gear



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Quality

There is such competition in the market place nowadays that manufacturers jostle for top place. Well known brands such as NIKON; CANON; SONY; PANASONIC; SAMSUNG & LUMIX to name a few are reliable. There are a few more, so it is a personal choice in the end. It is very important to hold the camera and try it out before purchasing it.

Ideally take a class in photography before coming on the safari as well.

Who is going to use the camera?

The cameras are now very user friendly and everyone, from 'junior' to grandparents can easily use these compacts without much instruction, and still get great pictures.

What is the cost of this camera?

Whether shopping on-line or going to the nearest camera store, the costs should vary between USD350- to USD750 (March 2015).

Mirrorless cameras are more expensive as they have changeable lenses, so expect to pay upwards of USD\$2000.

What am I going to do with the pictures?

Create a photo book, either online or at the nearest photo- dealer. This lasts a lifetime, and creates a talking point on your coffee table with friends and family. Any particular photo that attracts attention may be 'blown up' and framed for the family sitting room.



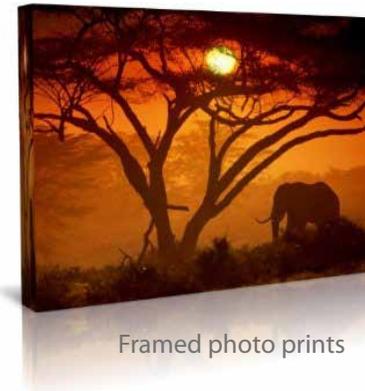
Try out your camera before buying



Get some practise or lessons



Photo books can be a great memory of your safari



Framed photo prints

Canon

Nikon

Panasonic

SAMSUNG

SONY



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