



SOUTHERN AFRICA PRE-DEPARTURE INFORMATION

PASSPORTS

Your passport must be valid for a minimum of six months beyond the date of your EXIT from Africa. This is extremely important – even if you are 1 or 2 days under this you will not be permitted to board your flight to Africa. Your passport must have enough clear pages for each country visited (allow one clear page per country you visit so there is sufficient space for the appropriate visas or entry stamps). Please note that it is not usually possible to use more than one passport for the duration of the tour. If you have dual nationality, please decide which passport you wish to travel on and advise us of those details on your booking form.

VISAS

Visa requirements vary with nationality and change frequently, often with little or no notice. Please double-check requirements before departure – The Safari Co will not be responsible for entry being denied. The below Visa Information is for **NZ/Australian** passport holders. Other passport holders should check with their Travel Agent or the relevant Embassies for latest Visa information. Visas are your responsibility. As at Jan 2025:

Zambia – no visa required

Namibia – no visa required

Botswana – Visa at border on arrival - no fee

HEALTH AND HYGIENE

Being ill when travelling is no one's idea of fun and the good health of the group depends on everyone being conscious of their own hygiene and of taking sensible precautions. Regardless of any inoculations you may have it is not unusual for some people to have a bit of stomach upset in their first few days in Africa. This is often just a reaction to a new environment and different foods and one usually recovers after a day or so. If symptoms persist, or are of an extreme nature, you should inform Andy who will assist you to seek medical advice. We also warn you against buying or using illicit or illegal drugs. They are just as illegal in Africa as they are at home and punishments are severe.

VACCINATIONS

In most cases vaccinations and malaria tablets may be obtained from your own GP. Alternatively, you can contact your nearest Travel Doctor – see website for a clinic near you www.traveldoctor.co.nz. The below list is **completely up to the individual** but we advise that you check with your Doctor at least 6 weeks prior departure. **HOWEVER, IF YOU HAVE PRE-EXISTING MEDICAL CONDITIONS OR ARE AGED 70+ YOU NEED TO CONTACT YOUR GP FOR TRAVEL CLEARANCE BEFORE YOU PAY DEPOSIT:**

- Typhoid
- Tetanus

- Hepatitis
- Meningitis
- Polio
- Hepatitis A & B
- Cholera
- Yellow Fever
- Malaria
- Yellow Fever *

***YELLOW FEVER** - it is necessary to be vaccinated for Yellow Fever only if you are arriving from a country at risk of Yellow Fever.

MALARIA - is the most common serious ailment affecting visitors to Africa. There are various anti-malarial tablets on the market and we recommend you seek professional medical advice as to which is suitable for you. The tablets will offer some protection but are not always 100% effective. The only sure way to avoid contracting malaria is to avoid being bitten by mosquitoes! Take plenty of insect repellent with you and wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants after sunset.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

Travel insurance is mandatory for all passengers. You should look for a comprehensive policy to cover you for health, accident, repatriation, cancellation, loss of belongings, your documents and money etc. Your policy should be issued to cover you for cancellation once you have paid for your trip, and the dates must cover you for your entire trip, ie. until you land back in your home country.

SECURITY

Security is of prime concern wherever you may travel and Africa is no exception. Please do not bring any unnecessary valuables (eg. expensive jewellery). We recommend using a money belt which can be worn comfortably under your clothing. Please also take extra care if travelling alone before or after your tour. We suggest you photocopy your passport, and keep a copy separate from the originals - or leave a copy with a friend at home - as it may be very helpful in the event of its loss. Our overland truck has a lockable safe for passengers' cash, passport etc. You are most welcome to make use of this free facility but please be aware that whilst all care will be exercised, The Safari Co cannot accept responsibility for anything lost or stolen from the truck safe or left on the vehicle.

LOCAL LAWS AND CUSTOMS

As visitors, we are required to obey all laws of the countries we travel in. This particularly applies to the carrying of drugs, firearms, pornography, or contraband. Any passenger found contravening such laws or putting guides or passengers at risk may be asked to leave the safari immediately with no refund of the tour fare. And

remember that as guests it is good manners to comply with local customs – even if you don't agree with them.

LUGGAGE

A soft carry bag is recommended or a backpack (no hard suitcases). Make sure you can easily carry your bag by yourself. Wheels will not always have a smooth path to run along! Also bring a small day bag for your camera, water bottle etc. Put your sleeping bag into a plastic sleeve or different bag and this can be left on the truck until you need it.

CURRENCY

US dollars is the most widely accepted currency throughout Africa and is the currency which we recommend you bring for your incidental spending money. **Do not bring US notes older than 2017.** Please keep notes in good condition - damaged notes of any currency may not be accepted. Notes in large denominations is preferred (notes in \$50s & \$100s). Andy will advise you where and when to change money.

ATMs are becoming more available and you can use your **Credit Card, Debit Card** or **Cash Passport** to obtain local currency from ATMs. Visa & Mastercard are the most widely accepted Credit Cards in Africa but do not rely on this as your only form of money. We suggest arriving with some USD cash and then using ATMs to obtain local currency where possible along the way.

SPENDING MONEY

This will depend largely on your own spending habits, but it pays to remember that Africa is not as cheap as many people think. As a guide we recommend you allow **US\$30-\$50 per person per day** for the time you are on safari for incidentals – visas, snacks, drinks, souvenirs, internet cafes, dining out, tipping of guides, tipping safari staff, optional sightseeing & activities etc.

TIPPING

Tipping is not compulsory, however most local workers are paid minimal wages so if you have received good service, it is nice to reward them with a tip. We recommend:

US\$1 for portage

US\$1-2 per day housekeeping staff

US\$5 per day for specialist guides (eg. Mokoro guides)

US\$50 for your cook/camp assistant (Nico)

10% is customary on meal accounts.

SAFARI STAFF & YOUR PARTICIPATION

Each tour will have one driver/guide (Andy) and one camp assistant (Nico). A roster will be made by Andy to assist with preparing and cooking of food, washing up and general cleaning. Please come prepared to 'do your bit' and share in these duties.

MEALS INCLUDED

While 'on the road' we include three meals a day unless otherwise stated in your itinerary. At the beginning of the tour the truck will be stocked with non-perishables and then fresh produce will be purchased along the way.

Breakfast - cereal, fresh fruit, toast, tea & coffee. Also a cooked breakfast unless we have a very early start.

Lunch - cold meat, salads, bread, cheese, fruit, juice.

Dinner - most days a soup starter followed by a main course of beef, pork, chicken, lamb or fish. All served with fresh vegetables or salads and rice. If you are a vegetarian or have a restricted diet, please advise us before arrival in Africa. Your choices may be more

limited to what you have at home but we will do our best to cater to your needs.

SNACKS

If you like to snack between meals we suggest you bring a few bits with you (eg. biscuits, lollies, energy bars). There will be visits to shops/supermarkets along the way where you can stock up.

LAUNDRY

Most campsites have hand washing facilities. For a small fee you can often have your laundry hand washed locally.

WATER

Always assume it is not safe to drink the local tap water supplies. Our overland vehicle has a 250 litre tank which we fill up from known supplies and is purified. Bring your own water bottle and you can fill it from the truck at any time. **TIP** – make sure your water bottle is full before you get off the plane – sometimes lines at airports and the drive to your accommodation can be lengthy.

DRINKS

Tea and coffee are supplied at breakfast and fruit juice at lunch. General drinks (soft-drinks, alcohol) are not included but there is the opportunity to buy these along the way.

VEHICLE

Our safari truck is purpose-built for overland tours and will carry all the equipment required to run an expedition through Africa. It is practical and built with safety and your comfort in mind. There is no on-board toilet, air conditioning or heating. Mechanically, the truck is operated under a strict maintenance programme. However, breakdowns can and sometimes do occur. At such times, please be patient while Andy considers the options of repair. Setbacks are what you make of them and often turn out to be quite memorable! Africa is a big continent and our safaris cover long distances. Driving is therefore an integral part of the trip – music, books, cards, games etc can help pass the time. Average speeds are around 60-80km/hour although there are times when our speed will be considerably below that due to bumpy roads. Dress in layers – the mornings can be cool but during the day you can take off a layer as it warms up.

ACCOMMODATION

The tents supplied by TSC have in-ground sheets and mosquito nets. If you would like to sleep out under the stars on some occasions, you will need to bring your own mosquito net and a plastic sheet to sleep on. Foam camp mats are provided (50mm thick, 1.9m long). When not camping, the accommodation is a range of permanent tented camps, cabins, cottages, lodges and hotels. They are basic, clean and comfortable and often set within grounds that offer good facilities such as showers, bar, restaurant, swimming pool.

ELECTRICITY

If you have a digital camera, video, phone, laptop you can charge these on the truck (NZ & UK outlets available). In campsites you may also have opportunities for charging devices. If your camera takes batteries, bring plenty of spares.

COMMUNICATIONS

In an emergency your family may contact our NZ agent-Marie Coles on +64 21 881 063 but bear in mind that whilst she will do her best to communicate any important messages it may take several days to get through. Please tell family and friends communication from Africa is not always perfect and they shouldn't worry if they don't hear from you regularly. That said, there are Wi-fi facilities at various places along the way. You can also take your own mobile phone and buy a local sim card – a much cheaper option if you plan to call home often.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Africa is a photographer's paradise and your Tour Guide will cooperate, as far as possible, with requests for 'photo stops'. A camera is an important part of your equipment whether it is a simple 'point and press' or something more complex. A camera case or bag is necessary to prevent damage by vibration, moisture and dust. A modest zoom lens (70mm-210mm) is a valuable accessory for game shots and candid shots of locals. A wide angle lens can be effective in photographing landscape and scenery. Ensure you have sufficient memory. You may have the opportunity to download pictures along the way but that will depend on local services and cannot be guaranteed. One or two extra memory sticks are recommended. Often the best pictures, and the least intrusive (especially of local people), are simply just an image taken in your head!

WHERE NOT TO TAKE PHOTOS

In some places it is forbidden to take photographs. Please do not attempt to take photographs at borders, of government buildings, where there is a sign forbidding it, anywhere else if Andy advises against it. Remember we are guests in the countries we visit and it is only polite to respect local customs and feelings. If it is apparent that someone does not want their photograph taken then please respect that wish.

NO PLASTIC BAGS

In an effort to clean up the environment, we urge you not to bring any plastic bags. Some African countries have now banned these.

CRAFTS

Crafts can be bought almost all the way. Each country has its own way of making crafts and you will find that prices vary considerably. Southern Africa's stone-ware and quality handicrafts are good buys. Unique and colourful African artwork in various forms can be purchased all over the continent.

BARGAINING

Bargaining for purchases is a way of life in Africa. When bargaining, try to conduct it in a friendly and spirited manner. The seller's aim is to identify the highest price you are willing to pay; your aim is to find the price below which the seller will not sell. Some sellers will begin up to four times the price they are willing to accept. Try to decide what you are willing to pay for the object in question and stick to that limit. Also keep in mind that the monetary difference you might be bargaining over could be worth a week's salary to the seller!

BORDER CROSSINGS

Be courteous and friendly at all times. Lots of patience is required. Treat immigration officials with respect. Have a pen ready for filling in forms.

CLIMATE & WEATHER CONDITIONS

With travel anywhere in the world these days, you need to be prepared to all weather! Dressing in layers is the key.

AUTHORITY ON TOUR

On occasions, it may be necessary to make alterations to the planned itinerary, whether for reasons of health, security, safety, or other circumstance beyond our control. This can be frustrating but often adds to the excitement of a trip. In all cases Andy will make any final decision consulting with the group where possible. Your understanding and patience at these times will be much appreciated. In all safari matters Andy's decision will be final.

SAFARI TIPS

Wear subtle colours. Bright colours can be distracting – you want to try and blend in with your surroundings and let the animals stand out, not you! On game drives, when the vehicle has stopped to view wildlife, keep conversation to a minimum. If you have to talk, do so quietly. Avoid sudden movements. Pay attention to your guide. Their vast knowledge of the country and animals will not only keep you safe, but also ensure an exciting experience.

GENERAL

At all times we ask you to keep an open mind to "Africa time", your travel companions, the local people, and facilities.

And don't forget to bring your sense of humour!

PACKING GUIDE

Temperatures may range from 8 - 25°C

LUGGAGE

Soft duffle bag or backpack (hard suitcase is not suitable) - make sure bags are labelled	
Daypack	
Sleeping bag (3 seasons)	
Small Pillow (optional – or you can roll up clothes to put your head on)	

DOCUMENTS

Passport (valid for 6 months after returning home)	
Vaccination certificates	
Travel Insurance documents	
US\$ Cash for personal items – bring a minimum of US\$300. <i>Money belt or bag for carrying cash</i>	
Credit card, Debit Card or Cash Passport	
Airline E-ticket	
Notebook & pen	

CLOTHING

Sun hat	
Beanie	
Headscarf / bandana	
T-shirts x 4	
Long sleeved cotton shirt + a thermal	
Long trousers x 2	
Shorts and/or skirt x 2	
Underwear & socks, bra / sports bra	
Fleecy or jersey/jumper x 2	
Gloves (optional)	
Warm Jacket / Puffer (it can get extremely cool quickly in Namibia)	
Swimwear (optional)	
Sunglasses	

SHOES

Sandals or jandals	
Trainers or walking shoes	

HYGIENE & PERSONAL BITS

Toothbrush & toothpaste	
Soap & Shampoo	
Moisturiser / Sunscreen	
Lip balm	
Deodorant	
Hand sanitiser (a supply is also on the truck)	
Wet wipes / tissues	
Razor (if necessary)	
Brush, comb, hair products (if necessary)	
Washing powder or soap + bag to put dirty clothes in (not plastic). Clothesline and pegs (optional)	
Contact lenses & solution (if necessary) dust is often a problem so bring glasses as backup	
Reading glasses (if necessary)	
Sanitary things (if necessary)	
Small first aid kit (<i>Imodium or similar, Anti-histamine cream/tablets, Antiseptic spray, cottonwool, sterile dressings, crepe bandage, band aids, scissors, tweezers, tape, antibiotic powder, painkillers, cold & flu tablets</i>)	
Rehydration sachets	
Personal medication (& a record of what you are taking on paper)	
Insect repellent & Malaria tablets	
Torch & batteries	
Towel (quick dry)	

GADGETS

Camera & charger (optional)	
Mobile phone & charger (optional)	
Binoculars - recommended 8 x 40 or 10 x 42 (optional)	
Watch	
Multi-Adaptor (Type D & G for Zambia, Type D & M for Namibia, Type M for Botswana)	