



PREMIER AFRICA

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SOUTH AFRICA

PERSONAL TRAVEL GUIDE



Important Tips When Traveling to South Africa

Find all the must-know travel requirements and destination information on South Africa before you embark on your adventure.

The following information has been compiled to provide you with guidelines and interesting facts about the country you will be visiting. Further information is available to you on the official South African Tourism Authority website: www.southafrica.net



Contents

Time Difference	1
Language	1
Currency	1
Water	2
Climate	3
Health	4
Safety	4
National Emergency Numbers	5
Gratuities	5
On Arrival	5
Passport & Visa Requirements	6
Electrical Converters & Adaptors	6
Photography	7
Clothing	8
Packing Your Safari Bag	9
Equipment & Other	9
Laundry	10
Public Holidays	11

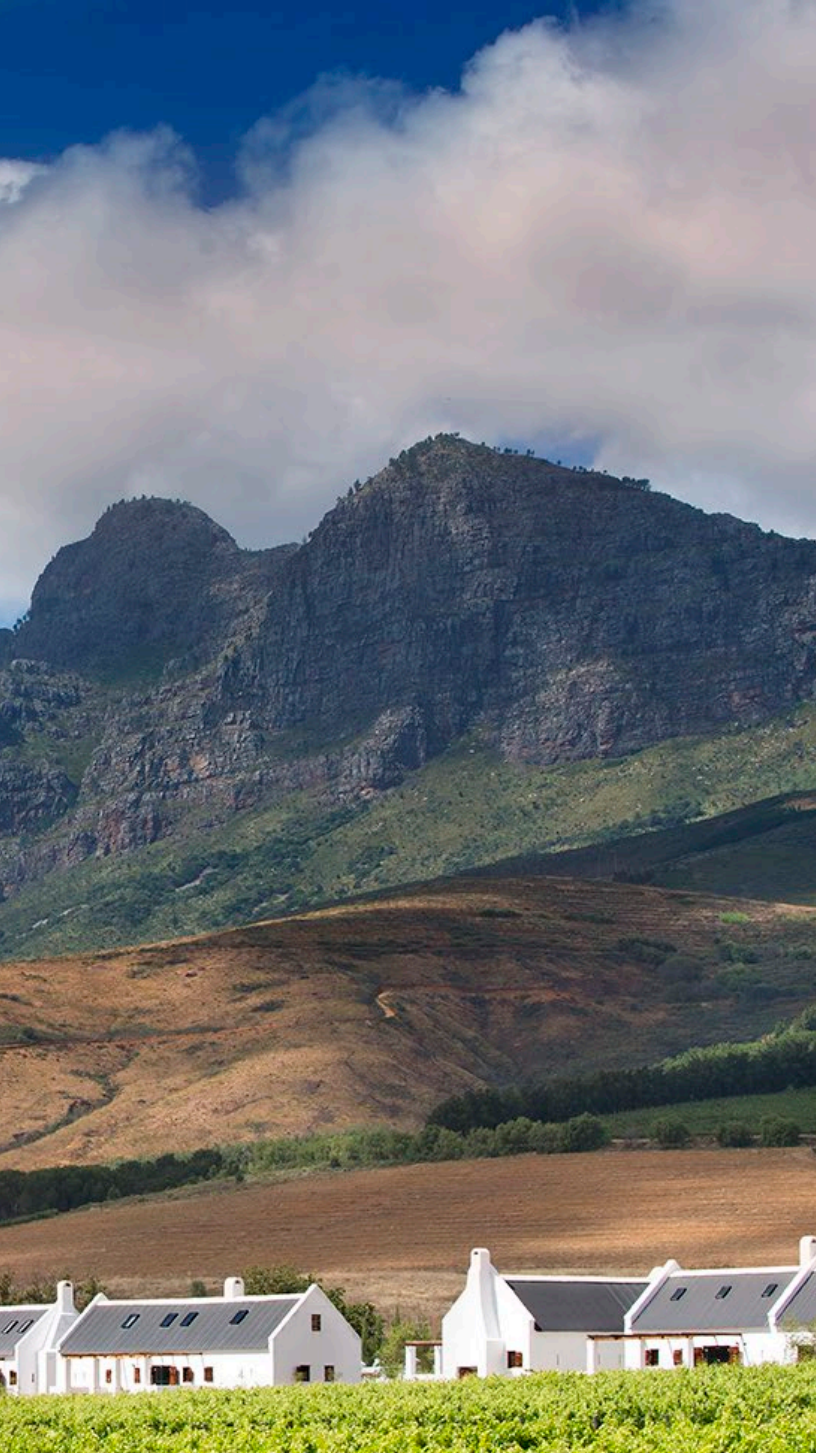


Your Personal Travel Guide to **SOUTH AFRICA**

South Africa attracts millions of travelers to its shores with its unique blend of old and modern Africa. It has an abundance of wildlife and scenery – from the sandy beaches, forest-covered cliffs, amazing marine life on its coastline to arid deserts, peak-filled mountain ranges and open bushveld savannah. Historical landmarks and interaction with local cultures and communities provide an insight into the “Rainbow Nation”. Train journeys, award-winning wine estates and a large variety of shopping opportunities are just some of the other facets to be experienced.

The landmass covers 471 010 square miles – almost the size of Alaska; twice the size of France – with a population of 59,3 million (mid year 2020 figure according to UN data).

The executive capital is Pretoria, with Bloemfontein being the judicial capital and Cape Town the legislative capital.



TIME DIFFERENCE



South Africa is two hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time throughout the year. It is therefore an hour ahead of Central European Winter Time, seven hours ahead of Eastern Standard Winter Time and seven hours behind Australian Central Time.

LANGUAGE

There are 11 officially recognised languages in South Africa – namely English, Afrikaans, Sepedi (also known as Sesotho sa Leboa), Sesotho, Setswana, siSwati, Tshivenda, Xitsonga, isiNdebele, isiXhosa and isiZulu – most of which are indigenous to the country. English is widely spoken in most hotels and lodges by the service staff. It is the language of government and official documents, commerce, banking and road signs.

The various ethnicities include Afrikaans, British, 'Coloured', amaNdebele, Basotho, South Asian, amaSwazi, baTsonga, baTswana, vhaVenda, amaXhosa and amaZulu.

USEFUL PHRASES IN TSWANA

<i>Hello</i>	<i>Dumela</i>
<i>How are you?</i>	<i>Lekae?</i>
<i>I am fine</i>	<i>Keteng</i>
<i>I am not fine</i>	<i>Gakasiama</i>
<i>I thank you</i>	<i>Kaleboga</i>
<i>We thank you</i>	<i>Realaboga</i>
<i>Beautiful</i>	<i>Bontle</i>
<i>Goodbye</i>	<i>Salasentle</i>

CURRENCY

Banking hours at most commercial banks are Monday to Friday from 9am to 3:30pm and on Saturday from 8am to 11am. ATMs are found throughout the country, at airports, petrol stations and shopping centres.

The currency is the South African Rand. R1 is made up of 100 cents. Please check with your hotel for daily exchange rates. No other currency is accepted as a form of payment.

Visa, American Express, Diners Club and MasterCard are honoured by most restaurants, shops, hotels, car rental firms and other points of sale. Proof of identity may be requested, so be sure to carry a passport or some form of photo identification at all times.

You will be required to declare all foreign currency in any form when entering/exiting South Africa and therefore we advise that you only change money as required. Most international airports have banks where money can be changed and facilities are usually available at reputable hotels and lodges.

We do suggest you travel with a universal ATM card from your bank so that you can access local currency from ATM machines. On arrival at the airports you will find many ATM machines where you can withdraw money. This will be deducted from your bank account based on that day's currency rate and reduces commission and inconveniences associated with traveller's checks. However, you may travel with traveller's checks if you prefer this option.

Should you decide to draw money at the local ATM - **DO NOT** accept help, to use the machine, from any person who **offers** it. Should you require assistance, please ask one of Premier Africa representatives to assist you. **Please remember to be vigilant, keep your pin number secret.**



Please note that 15% Value Added Tax is levied in South Africa. To qualify for a VAT refund, visitors must be in possession of a valid passport, valid tax invoices and must produce the goods purchased. Please note that a receipt stating "for information only" is not accepted by the VAT authorities. The document must stipulate that it is a VAT invoice and show the amount charged. Goods are also not to be utilised/consumed whilst in South Africa and must be in original packaging.

Only claims where the value of the goods exported at one time exceed ZAR 250.00 or more will be considered for a VAT refund. The ZAR 250.00 relates to the total value of all the invoices submitted and is not a minimum value per invoice. Additional and more detailed information can be obtained on the tax refund website www.taxrefunds.co.za.

WATER



Tap water is safe to drink in South Africa but bottled mineral water is available for purchase.



CLIMATE

The weather in South Africa is generally pleasant throughout the year – warm to hot days, and cool to warm nights. During our winter months however (May to September), it can get very cold at night and in the early morning, particularly when on safari, so we would like to suggest that you pack accordingly – very warm clothing including an anorak/winter jacket, a beanie (woollen hat), scarf and gloves are recommended. Please also refer to our packing suggestions list.

January to March is the peak of summer and the rainfall season in most of the country. Days are normally warm with afternoon cloud build up and possible showers although these are usually short-lived. Wildlife can disperse during this time in search of new grazing. The Cape Province has it's rainfall in the winter months so it can be hot, dry and windy at this time.

During April to May morning temperatures start to drop and the evenings are cooler. Rainfall is limited and as the free-standing waters dry out, wildlife start to congregate more at perennial water sources.

The early part of June is very cold in the mornings and evenings, occasionally even dropping below 32°F, and winter lasts until August. Days are normally sunny and pleasant with occasional cold snaps, and windy spells towards the end of this period. Game viewing can be excellent in the dry winter months in some areas. The Cape can experience lovely sunny but cool weather during this period. It is also the rainy season in the Cape so some days can be quite wet and windy.

Spring starts in September with all the vegetation coming into leaf and days are much warmer with the occasional cool evening and morning. From October we experience very warm sunny days with warm evenings. Some rains are experienced sporadically, though larger showers can be expected usually only around December. Wildlife sightings can vary depending how early the rains have started.

Despite regional differences, South Africa's climate is generally mild throughout the year. Snowfall is limited to the highest mountain peaks and it is a relatively dry country with a mean annual rainfall of 19.7 inches.

Temperature (°F) - These are the average highs and lows

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
JNB	52/86	51/84	47/82	41/78	35/73	29/69	29/70	31/76	35/83	41/85	45/85	49/86
CPT	60/82	60/84	57/80	53/77	49/71	45/67	43/65	46/67	47/69	51/74	55/76	59/80
GRJ	61/77	60/79	59/77	54/73	52/72	46/68	46/66	46/66	48/68	52/70	54/72	59/75
NLP	59/77	59/79	57/77	52/73	46/72	43/68	41/66	41/70	50/75	52/75	55/77	57/77

Average Rainfall (inches) - This varies according to the year and location

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
JNB	5.1	3.9	3.7	2.2	0.5	0.4	0.2	0.2	1.1	0.3	0.5	4.2
CPT	0.6	0.7	0.9	1.7	2.8	3.8	3.4	3.2	1.7	0.1	0	0.7
GRJ	7.4	7.6	8.1	5.9	3.5	6.1	3.6	6.3	5	9.4	9.3	6.2
NLP	49.9	35.5	33.4	15.9	4.9	2.4	3.9	6.6	14.9	24.1	54.2	58

JNB Johannesburg
CPT Cape Town

GRJ George - Garden Route
NLP Nelspruit - Kruger National Park

HEALTH

Some areas in South Africa are malaria-free and others are not. Make a note of your destination and ask your doctor whether you need to get anti-malaria medication. Also remember that it tends to get very hot in summer (with temperatures of over 86°F).

Please consult your doctor for advice on malaria precautions before travel to South Africa. Anyone who takes any special medication should take enough supplies to last the visit.

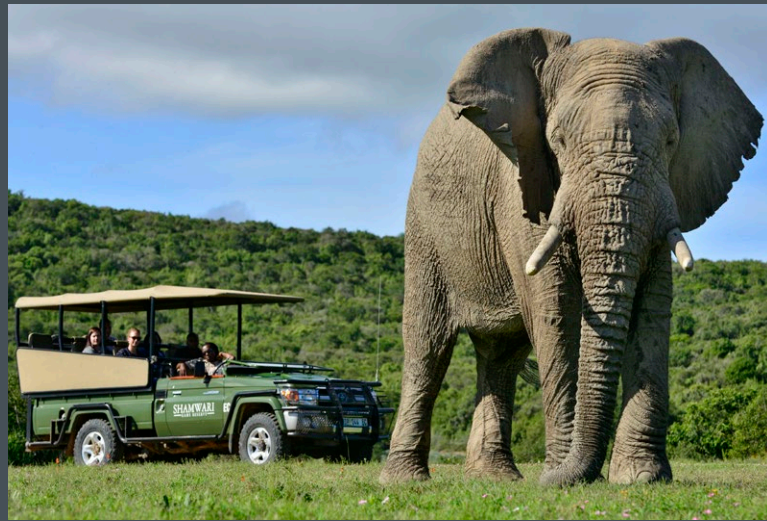
Yellow fever certificates are required for entry into South Africa if you travelled through the Yellow Fever belt.

Be aware of ticks on safari. Like most wilderness areas, ticks can be found in the bush. To avoid getting bitten guests are advised to take precautions when going on bush walks by wearing long trousers, socks and boots. If you are bitten, a tick bite could lead to tick bite fever. Symptoms include fever, headaches, and painful enlarged lymph glands in the area of the bite. If you experience these symptoms after returning home please visit your doctor and advise them of the possibility of tick bite fever.

Safari lodges in the Kruger area are in a malaria zone, so it is essential to consider taking prophylactics. We recommend that you adhere to the advice of your doctor regarding prophylactics. Insect repellent (spray or wipes) is provided in your suite and on game drive vehicles.

Packing Tip:

- Malaria tablets
- Antihistamine tablets if you suffer from any allergies.
- Anti-nausea tablets if you suffer from motion sickness.
- Moisturizing cream, Lip balm and suntan lotion – SPF 20 or higher recommended.
- Basic medical kit (aspirin, Band-Aids, Imodium, Pepto Bismol capsules, antiseptic cream and anti-histamine cream etc).



SAFETY

In terms of personal safety, the same rules apply as to every international destination in the world. Keep your belongings close and guarded at all times, don't go wandering about alone at night and, when in the cities, be on the alert for pickpockets.

It is advised you check with your Premier Africa host or hotel concierge – they will know if there are any potentially unsafe areas along your travel route. It is wise to avoid deserted areas, particularly at night. Dress-down (i.e. don't wear excessive jewellery) when exploring Africa's diverse cities. Concealed travel wallets are recommended. South Africans are a very warm and hospitable nation - please do not hesitate in asking for assistance at any time.



NATIONAL EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Medical Rescue Netcare 911	082 911
ER 24	084 124 / 011 803 7707
Police	10111
Ambulance	10117

If you are calling from a mobile you are able to contact emergency services by dialling 112.

GRATUITIES

It is customary to tip 10 to 15% of the bill at hotels and restaurants and 10% of the fare to taxi drivers. It is also the custom to tip local guides and drivers. At safari lodges guests should consider an amount that you are comfortable with and that you think is deserved. Hairdressers and theatre ushers are not usually tipped for their services. Here is a guide to gratuities:

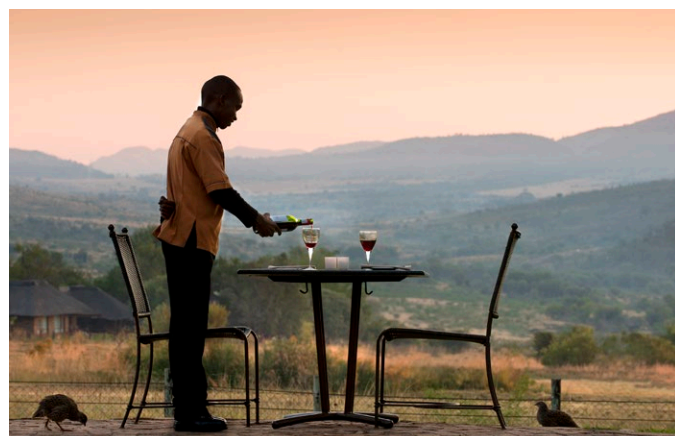
Safari Rangers / Private Guide	\$20 per person per day
Safari Trackers	\$10 per person per day
Camp Staff	\$20 per person per day
Activity Guide / Representative	\$15 per person
Porter / Baggage Handler	\$1 per bag or luggage item
Restaurant Waiter	10 - 15% of the bill

ON ARRIVAL

Upon your arrival in South Africa, you will be met plane side by our Premier Africa ground handlers, who will assist you in clearing customs and making your way to the International Arrivals Hall. Please keep a look out for them as you disembark the aircraft, as they will have your name on a board and they are here to assist you.

At the arrivals hall, you will be met by our Premier Africa representative who will welcome you and assist you to your transfer vehicle to your hotel or to your onward flight.

If you need help with anything while on your trip, your excursion manager will be available on their mobile phones. For your convenience, their numbers will also be in your travel journal, which you will receive in your welcome pack in South Africa and which will also be emailed to you prior to your departure from the USA.



PASSPORT & VISA REQUIREMENTS

Please ensure that your passport is valid for at least 6 months after your departure from Africa. Also see that you allow for 2 VISA pages per country visiting (e.g. if visiting South Africa & Zambia you will need 4 visa pages) and thereafter, you have 2 blank VISA pages remaining.

USA and Canadian Travellers going to South Africa do not require VISA's for periods less than 90 days.



It is a good precaution to make copies of all your important documents such as the first pages of your passport and air tickets and keep these in a separate place for safekeeping.



ELECTRICAL CONVERTERS & ADAPTORS

Please note that the power outlets in South Africa, Botswana & Zambia are 220V – 230V and not 110V as in the USA, and therefore we suggest you travel with an electrical converter as a safety precaution to protect any electrical equipment you may be travelling with.

You will be supplied with an adaptor on your arrival in South Africa. This adaptor will change your American 2 blade plug into a 3 prong plug – it does not however convert the electricity voltage.

Most of the latest electrical equipment, ie Digital cameras, camcorders, laptops and Ipads have a built-in converter which will allow your produce to charge on 220 - 230 Volts. Many safari camps in remote locations produce their own electricity through a generator and solar power, which charges/runs during the day when guests are away from the camp on activities. Your camp manager will inform you of this on arrival/check in to your camp.

You can charge your additional batteries when you arrive into camp and if you need additional charging time, your ranger will be able to arrange for the charging of digital or video camera batteries when you are out on safari/game drive.



PHOTOGRAPHY

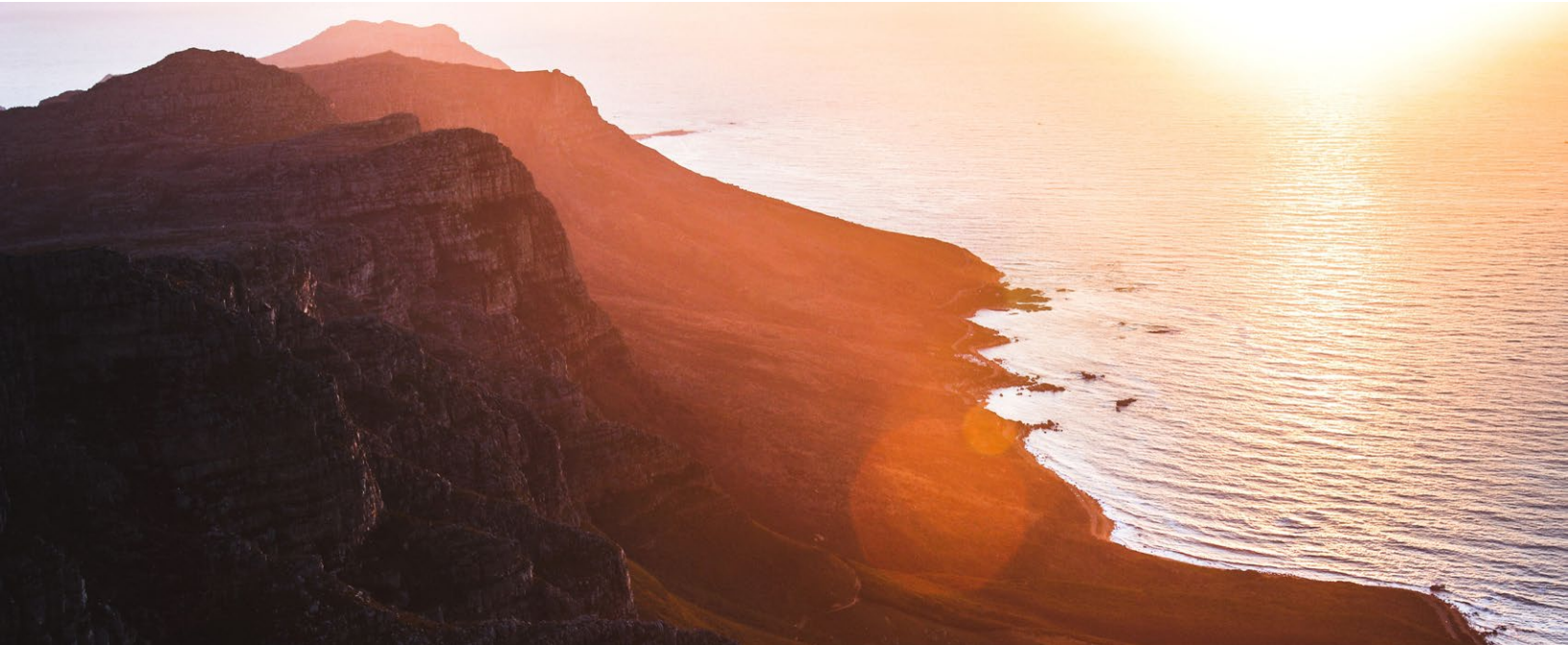
Most types of film material are readily available in all major centres and holiday resorts. Please be sensitive when photographing people. South Africans are renowned for being friendly; however it is courteous to ask permission before snapping away.

The use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (Drones) are not allowed in any of the conservation areas until such time as their impact on wildlife and anti-poaching initiatives can be assessed. This rule will apply throughout Africa, as our partners in various countries and regions have adopted a similar stance.

When taking a trip of a lifetime, it is important to come with the correct equipment. Nothing could be more useful for capturing the special moments of an African safari than a high quality camera. Lenses that can zoom up to approximately 300mm are adequate for safaris. Please establish if your camera has a built-in stabilizer as the camera shake on a game drive vehicle when zooming in can compromise the quality of your pictures. If not, a simple bean bag to rest the camera on will work. 12 - 16GB of memory should be sufficient for a trip and make sure you carry spare batteries.

If you have decided to bring a large digital camera with interchangeable lenses here are a few pointers:

- Dust is a huge problem and getting dust on your sensor while changing lenses and can ruin your photos. Therefore, I prefer to use a 50 - 500mm lens which has great versatility for wildlife photography and keeping you from having to change lenses out on safari, and a smaller 17 - 70mm wide angle lens for indoor shots around the camps etc.
- If you do decide to bring a large lens, make sure that you have a decent mono pod they work great especially when you are in a safari vehicle and you need to keep the lens steady for those long shots.
- Make sure you bring enough memory cards rather stay away from the big 16GB cards and bring more 2GB or 4GB cards with you, so that if your card gets damaged or lost you don't lose all your photos.



CLOTHING

The weather in southern Africa is generally pleasant throughout the year – warm to hot days, and cool to warm nights – with summer (September to April) being the hotter months. During our winter months, however (May to August), it can become really cold at night and in the early morning, particularly when on safari, so we would like to suggest that you pack accordingly.

Dress in layers for all activities, with a warm layer/s being essential in the early mornings and evenings. Long-sleeved shirts with roll-up tabs and zip-off trousers allow one to adapt to local weather conditions as temperatures rise (breathable items of clothing are recommended as these can adapt to changing temperatures throughout the day/night). Dressing for ease and comfort is key.

- Sun hat/bush hat.
- Headscarf/bandana – particularly for dusty dry regions.
- Golf-shirts and/or T-shirts – preferably with sleeves to protect your shoulders from the sun.
- Long-sleeved cotton shirts.
- Shorts and/or skirts – really short skirts are not practical for getting in and out of game drive vehicles.
- Long trousers/slacks.
- Track suit.
- Pyjamas – lightweight for summer and warm/thermal for winter.
- Underwear – on game drives the roads can be bumpy and uneven so a suitable women's attire may be required.
- Socks – thermal options are recommended for the winter months.
- Good closed walking shoes (running/tennis shoes are fine).
- Sandals – preferably low heeled or flat if you are going on safari.
- Swimming costume.
- Lightweight jersey or fleece in summer.
- Light rain gear or jacket.
- Warm jersey or fleece plus anorak or parka in winter.
- Additionally, a scarf, gloves and beanies/woollen hats for the cold winter months.
- More formal attire for your stay at prestigious city hotels or on one of the luxury trains.



PACKING YOUR SAFARI BAG

Your safari suitcase, packed properly, will ensure that you have everything you need for the ultimate African bush experience. Cotton clothing in neutral colours is recommended for all game drives and bush walks. It is best to avoid white clothing and dark colours for bush activities, as they tend to attract certain bugs. Formal wear is not required at any of the lodges.

We recommend packing the following:

- Comfortable walking shoes/track shoes/hiking boots for walks and sandals to wear around the lodge.
- Swimming costume/bathing suits, sun block, sun hat, sunglasses, lip balm, mosquito repellent (lip balm and mosquito repellent is provided for all our guests, but you are welcome to bring along your favourite brand).
- Camera and video camera, binoculars, spare memory cards and charging equipment. The use of unmanned aerial vehicles (drones) is strictly prohibited.
- All lodges are located in remote areas and therefore guests should remember to bring an extra pair of correction glasses, contact lens solution and an extra set of contact lenses (if required) as well as a sufficient supply of any prescription medication.

EQUIPMENT & OTHER

- Good quality sunglasses, UV protected, preferably polarised. Tinted fashion glasses are not good in strong light.
- If you wear contact lenses, we recommend that you bring along a pair of glasses in case you get irritation from the dust.
- Personal toiletries (basic amenities are supplied by most establishments)
- Moisturising cream and suntan lotion – SPF 50 or higher recommended.
- Lip balm.
- Insect repellent for body application, e.g. Tabard, Rid, Jungle Juice, etc.
- Please consult with your travel clinic with regards to appropriate medication to include in your basic medical kit (aspirins, Band-Aids, antiseptic cream and antihistamine cream, anti-nausea, Pepto Bismol, etc.)
- Tissues.
- Lightweight backpack to carry essentials on walking safaris.
- Visas, tickets, passports, money, credit cards, insurance details, etc.
- Camera equipment including spare batteries, chargers, film, flash cards, memory sticks, etc.
- Waterproof/dustproof bag or cover for your camera.
- We highly recommend that you bring your own pair of binoculars for viewing both wildlife and birds. The recommended general purpose binocular specifications are 8x40 or 10x42.

Please note that Namibia, Kenya and Rwanda are polythene-free countries. For environmental reasons, plastic bags are illegal and have been banned, the customary plastic duty-free bags included. Arriving visitors are requested to avoid bringing plastic bags into the countries and, in fact, being in possession of a plastic bag/s will be an offence as it will now be against the law and violators could be penalized.

Visitors are advised to avoid packing any plastic bags into their suitcases or in carry-on hand luggage before flying to Namibia, Kenya and Rwanda. For liquids in hand luggage, it is recommended to use transparent toiletry bags (and not the Ziploc plastic bags). Items purchased at the airport before boarding the aircraft should be removed from said plastic bags. Travellers coming into Namibia, Kenya and Rwanda with duty-free plastic shop bags will be required to leave these at the airport under the new regulations.

NOTE 1: Bright colours and white are not advisable whilst on safari. Camouflage clothing is not recommended for travel in African countries (camouflage or military-inspired clothing is prohibited when travelling in Zimbabwe).

NOTE 2: There may be a restriction on luggage limits on your safari – please ensure that you have the details from your excursion manager according to your itinerary and ask ahead of time if you would like details on the feasibility and costs of taking excess luggage with you on any of these restricted luggage safaris.

NOTE 3: Most camps carry reference materials in their vehicles, so it is not necessary to bring these with you.

NOTE 4: Where applicable, a printed copy of your travel insurance that includes the policy reference number, name of insurer, name/s of person/s covered and the contact telephone number/s in the advent of a medical emergency.

LAUNDRY

A limited laundry service is provided on a daily basis at most safari lodges and, weather permitting, will be returned on the same day. Please bear in mind that location and access to a plentiful water supply may on occasion restrict this offering. As this is not a specialised facility, any delicate items or those that require particular care should not be included. Note that the camps/lodges cannot be held responsible for any damage or loss to these articles. Laundry is complimentary at some safari lodges.

At certain camps/lodges, the staff will not wash underwear, due to prevailing local cultural traditions in the country. In these instances, environmentally friendly washing detergent can be supplied for you to wash your own items. At some camps/lodges a mesh laundry bag is supplied so that you may place your underwear into this bag which will then be machine washed with other laundry and returned in the same mesh laundry bag.

Laundry is dried by the sun and on most days, laundry services requested in the morning will be returned by the evening (washed, dried and ironed).





PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

The dates of certain public holidays change from year to year – please refer to the below. If a public holiday falls on a Sunday, then the Monday is also declared a public holiday.

01 January	New Year's Day
21 March	Human Rights Day
Varies	Good Friday
Varies	Family Day
27 April	Freedom Day
01 May	Workers Day
16 June	Youth Day
09 August	National Women's Day
24 September	Heritage Day
16 December	Day of Reconciliation
25 December	Christmas Day
26 December	Day of Goodwill