



Travel with the experts

Your African Safari Planner

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This little guide book is intended to help you fulfil your dreams with the planning of a great African safari experience

The African safari building process.

Africa is a big continent filled with a wide variety of interesting options to meet a myriad of different interests, not all of them manageable in one trip. Most Wildlife safaris take place in Southern or East Africa. Here is a guide to assist with your planning of the perfect safari

1. Consider your key interests and priorities

- ✚ Seeing the Big 5?
- ✚ Birding?
- ✚ Photographer?
- ✚ Fly fishing or
- ✚ Golf?
- ✚ Apart from the above,
- ✚ What other interests could you combine?
 - ✚ Time at the coast?
 - ✚ Do cultural tours have a place in your trip?
 - ✚ Are famous battlefields of interest?
 - ✚ Good food & wine?
- i. What other options may interest you?

2. Choose an experienced safari Planner to help you

- ✚ How well do they know Africa?
- ✚ How well do they know the Lodges available and have they first-hand experience of them?
- ✚ Do they have the independence of choice when deciding where to send you?
- ✚ Can they give you good practical experiential advice?

3. Determine your available dates

- ✚ There are "high seasons" and there are low seasons but these vary from country to country and invariably are determined by seasonal seismic events (Wildebeest migration in Kenya). A good safari planner can put you in a good space at almost any time of the year.

4. Plan ahead - at least 6 if not 12 months

- ✚ African safaris are popular, give your safari planner every chance of getting you into the camps he considers best for you.
- ✚ High season is often booked a year in advance

5. Don't try and cover too much ground or too many places

- ✚ Africa is a big place; every country in Africa is pretty large. It is better to have 3 night stays in a few Lodges than to tear round many. You won't get full value unless you aim to stay for at least 2

nights or better still 3. One night stands are only useful as in-transit stopovers.

6. Make sure your trip has a good flow to it

- ✚ Based on your interests, make sure that the safari planner designs your trip with the emphasis on building up to a crescendo as the trip progresses. There may be a good reason to end on a relaxed beach or coastal resort as a wind down so you can digest your great experience and hopefully start thinking about the next

7. If possible chose an under-canvas accommodation experience

- ✚ A true African safari should be enjoyed under canvas. Africa is hot, the air is filled with wonderful bush sounds and the heavens are brighter and more intense than anywhere else on earth. Modern safari tents are absolute works of art and comfort; they are cool and perfectly safe for you and your family so give yourself the opportunity to really enjoy them.

8. Push the boundaries within your own propensity for adventure and within the confines of your budget

- ✚ There are invariably lots of wonderful add-ons to your safari. Nothing beats hot air ballooning over areas like the Masai Mara, the Serengeti or the Okavango Delta, white water rafting down the

Zambezi River or Mokoroing (being poled along in a dugout canoe by an experienced guide) in the backwaters of a crystal clear Okavango Delta. There are also great helicopter and small aircraft flips. We have gently nudged travellers in some of these directions and they have invariably been the highlight of their trips.

9. Where possible involve yourself in the planning process, it should be fun and enhance the experience

- ✚ A good safari planner will enjoy the involvement of his clients, their excitement, suggestions, comments and feedback. That helps to produce a really great experience for you

10. Your standard checklist

- ✚ There are three areas of planning for you personally, the first is what clothing and toiletries to take, the second is, what toys might you need and the third is, any medication you may need to see that you don't waste time being sick while you are there. Remember, there are all sorts of new foods, drinks and a few crawly things and you want to be certain that you are prepared for all. See separate *General Safari Checklist* on the next page

SAFARI CHECKLIST

PASSPORT		Cash for tips	Credit Cards
Flight tickets		Travel Insurance	Visa
Soft Duffle Bag: 25 cm (10") wide x 30 cm (12") high and 62 cm (24") long			
Clothing		Personal Toiletries	General
Belts	1	After-shave	Binoculars
Handkerchiefs		Ant Acids	Bird Book
Jacket	1	Citro Soda	Camera & Lenses
Pyjamas		Deodorant	Camera batteries
Raincoat	1	Eye drops	Cam battery charger
Sandals /slip-slops	1	Hair-brush	Cellphone charger
Shirts Long-sleeved		Hand cream	Duct Tape
Shirts short -sleeved		Medical Kit (Below)	Glasses Dark
Shoes walking, casual		Personal Medication	Kindle / Book
Shorts		Powder	Pen & Pencil
Socks		Razor /Shaving cream	Plug Adaptor
Sun Hat / Cap	1	Tooth-brush / paste	Swiss army knife
Swimming Costume	1	Mosquito Spray	Torch small
Tracksuit (cold weather)	1	Suntan Oil	
Underclothes		Sunscreen lip salve	
First Aid		JPS's Rec	
Ant-Acids		Citro Soda /Eno's	Antiseptic hand wash
Anti-Hangover		Essentiale /Prohep	Bandage
Anti-Histamine		Allergex Loratadine	Needle (splinters)
Anti-Itch		Anthisan	Plasters
Antibiotic General		Augmentin	Scissors
Antibiotic Ointment		Bactroban/Supriban	Tweezers

Aspirin/Paracetamol	Grandpa Powders	Zambuk
Colds & Flu	Corenza C	
Dehydration	Rehydrate	
Diarrhoea {Antibiotic}	Imodium /{Kantrexil}	
Eye allergy	Spersallerg	
Eye Drops	Optiva	
Laxative	Movicol	
Muscular	Spasmend	
Nausea	Medazine	
Innuendo	Valoid Suppositories	
Pain /fever	Myprodol/Mypaid	

The delights of Cape Town and other great add-on

✚ Cape Town in South Africa is considered one of the most beautiful cities in the world. It has a host of interesting excursions from trips up Table Mountain by cable car, to trips out to Robben Island where Nelson Mandela was incarcerated for 25 years, to guided trips through the winelands as well as some of the finest restaurants in the world. A few days in Cape Town before or after your safari is always a worthwhile undertaking

There are some famous British Battlefields in South Africa, some against the indigenous population and others against the doughty Boers (white settlers) one of which resulted in the most number of VC's awarded at any one time.

- ✚ South Africa is also one of the finest golfing destinations in the world

Best Safari Destinations

- ✚ Botswana's Okavango Delta must take pride of place as the most beautiful Wildlife Safari destinations for the Big 5. It is teeming with game and birdlife in pristine magnificent scenery and rates as one of the 7 natural wonders of the World and a World Heritage site.
- ✚ Kenya & Tanzania are famous for their annual Migrations of millions of Wildebeest and Zebra and the predators that prey upon them.
- ✚ Rwanda & Uganda are famous for Gorillas & Chimpanzees
- ✚ Chad is famous for its share abundance of unique wildlife and birds from 4 sub regions of the world
- ✚ Namibia is famous for its desert vistas and the big game that has adapted to it.
- ✚ Zambia & Zimbabwe are truly magnificent wildlife destinations.

Contact me for assistance

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