



Socially Responsible Safaris

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

Why should I consider a socially responsible safari?

Africa is known for its prolific wildlife and open plains as far as the eye can see. Here you will find diverse modern and ancient lands, which can encompass game viewing, beautiful lakes, magnificent mountains and tropical coastlines. There are also strong ethnic groups and traditions which will offer you warm and welcoming hospitality. Wildlife officials are doing their utmost to maintain the relationship between humans and wildlife, and responsible tourism is one of the best ways to help them accomplish just that.

Do I need a Visa for travel?

All visitors require a valid passport with at minimum 6-months remaining before expiration, sufficient blank pages for Visa/s and entry/departure stamps, and a return air ticket. **Visas can be obtained upon arrival at the airport and cost US\$ 50 (check for any recent changes).** Please make sure you have US\$ cash with you when you arrive.

Is it safe to travel to (and what about crime in) Africa?

Safety and security should be a concern regardless where one chooses to travel these days and travel to Africa is no different. Yet the media does have a morbid fascination with bad news from or warnings posted about travel to Africa. As a continent, Africa is quite large and an incident in one country doesn't necessarily impact the entire continent, anymore then such an occurrence in your home city would. While it is true that some cities in sub-Saharan Africa might be more prone to crime then others, the vast majority of any incidents are targeted at people who live and work in the specific country. In eleven years of leading trips, we have never had a security concern, and we do everything we can to prevent tourists from being exposed to any such dangers.

What kind of accommodations can I expect?

While in Kenya, you will have a wide array of accommodations ranging from classic safari lodges, to colonial hotels, to tented camps, to luxurious beach resorts. Some of these may be luxuriously "over-the-top," and others are simply comfortable, yet with all the necessary amenities. Many are powered by solar and/or generators, with pools and en-suite bathrooms.

What is a typical day like while on Safari?

Each day will be different... each an adventure. Your days will begin with an early 6:00am wake-up, be served coffee or tea and biscuits before heading out for the early game-drive at about 6:30am. After about 3-hours, you'll return to your lodge for a full breakfast. The rest of the morning you can use to simply relax, catch-up on sleep, or go swimming. Lunch is served by 1pm. Around 4:00pm you will depart on your afternoon game-drive; returning to camp/lodge

around 6:30pm. You will have time to freshen up before “sundowners” at sunset. Dinner is normally served around 8pm and is an amazing experience!

What kind of food can I expect to be served while on safari?

Food is generally Continental, with Traditional African dishes. Most hotels are booked as bed and breakfast, while safari lodges and camps are full-board. On safari, breakfast consists of a buffet of fruits and hot & cold cereals, eggs, sausage and bacon, breads and coffee/tea. Lunch is usually a buffet of hot or cold meats, fish and salads, breads, cheeses and coffee/tea; and at some camps you might find assorted pastas. Dinner will be either a set menu with choice of entrée, or a scrumptious buffet offering a choice of chicken, beef, pork or fish, vegetables, fruits and cheeses, breads and beverages. **If you have special dietary needs, do not hesitate to let us know in advance and every attempt will be made to meet your requirements.**

Can I drink the water and what about ice cubes?

Water is generally safe in urban areas and established hotels/resorts, but for first-time travelers to Africa, this may cause abdominal upsets. **Thus, it is best to drink sealed bottled water, which is available everywhere throughout your trip – hotels, lodges and camps.** This same sealed bottled or purified water is what is used by hotels, lodges and camps to make ice cubes, so they are safe; but if you are not comfortable doing so, avoid the ice cubes. Bottled water should also be used for brushing your teeth. Your guide will assure that you always have enough complementary bottled water while out on safari.

What type of electrical power will I find in East Africa?

In East Africa, the electricity supply is 220 / 240V AC, 50 Hz. and can be round 2-pin or flat 3-pin plugs. If you use electrical appliances (shaver, hair dryer, curling iron, etc.) that are not compatible or at least dual-voltage, it is suggested you bring a converter and appropriate adapter plugs. If for some reason your appliances do not work properly, do not hesitate to contact Reception, who will likely have an appliance for your use. Be aware that generators at remote locations may only operate during specific hours... and never operate after midnight. Guest rooms are often lit by hurricane lamps, and flashlights are provided, but it is a good idea to bring one of your own.

What about my overall comfort?

With the exception of extremely bumpy and dusty road conditions, we believe your overall comfort will be more than satisfactory as far as the accommodations and meals on your itinerary. Each room has an en-suite private bathroom, and your guide will do his best to ensure your comfort as much as possible.

Will I require any immunizations and/or medications?

We recommend that you contact your local Health Centre to learn about current information regarding international travel. Before getting any inoculation/s or taking medicines, you should discuss this with your personal physician or a tropical disease specialist (at the health centre) who knows your medical history. **A Yellow Fever vaccination may be required for your trip** and your health provider might recommend additional inoculations. A course of anti-malarial medication will also be recommended for individuals traveling to some countries. Check whether your insurance company will reimburse for travel related immunizations and/or medicines, but don't be surprised if they won't.

You should make an appointment with your local travel clinic at least 8-12 weeks prior to your departure if you choose to be inoculated with the following:

- a) Hepatitis A
- b) Typhoid
- c) Yellow Fever
- d) Polio
- e) Hepatitis B

In addition, it is recommended that you ensure your immunizations for the following are still valid:

- a) Tetanus-Diphtheria
- b) Rabies
- c) Measles-Mumps-Rubella
- d) Varicella

And finally, you will need an anti-malaria prophylaxis with Larium, Malarone, or Doxycycline. Your local travel clinic will be able to assist you with all the information needed for these inoculations and medications.

Will there be snakes, flying insects, spiders or other “creepy crawlies”?

There are snakes in Africa and probably some will be out and about while you are on your African safari, but it is unlikely you will see any. The same can be said for spiders and other creepy crawlies – they’re around, but we’ve never seen more than a water bug and one dead snake. As to flying insects, especially mosquitoes, these are around and you should take precautions with insect repellent that contains Deet. As to mosquitoes, especially the malaria type... biting time is between dusk and dawn, when you should wear long pants, shirt sleeves, socks, and apply repellent on exposed skin.

Is there much English spoken?

Throughout Africa, English is spoken in almost every country. An English speaker should not encounter any problems in being able to communicate.

Should I purchase travelers insurance?

It is **REQUIRED** that you purchase Trip Cancellation, Trip Interruption, and Trip Medical Insurance. You have made an investment in your trip to Africa and should do what is necessary to protect it if something unforeseen happens. Your travel representative will be able to provide you with the insurance package that you need.

What type/s of currency do I need to bring?

Throughout Africa, the US\$ is the most convertible currency. Once you arrive in Kenya, your guide will help you exchange your US\$ cash into local currency as needed. There are a few ATMs in Nairobi, and a few establishments will accept major credit cards, but bringing US CASH (\$300-500 per person) is definitely the easiest and best option. **US\$ 100 dollar bills are the most widely accepted, and they MUST be printed in the years 2003-2010.**

Will there be any extra costs while I’m on safari?

Minimal. As per the original brochure, most costs will be paid for prior your departure. At some lodges/camps there will be a minimal charge for soft drinks, beer, and other alcoholic beverages. Of course, any items of a personal nature such as phone calls, internet usage, laundry, souvenirs, etc. are your responsibility. In addition, you will be offered a few optional day tours during your trip, and they range from US\$10 – US\$ 40 depending on the activity. (Note: It is generally suggested that you bring US\$ 300-500 in cash to pay for any optional day tours, your Tourist Visa, souvenirs, internet, wine/beer, etc.)

What about tipping?

Tipping should always be at your discretion, based on the level of service received from your guide/driver, lodge/camp staff and hotel staff in cities. In order to make it easier for you, the cost of your trip already includes tips for camp staff, porters, waiters, and housekeeping staff. However, should you wish to tip your safari driver (at the end of the safari), or your guide, that is acceptable and totally up to your discretion.

What kind of clothes do I need?

Unless you choose to, it isn't necessary to look as if you stepped off the pages of a fashion magazine. Comfortable and interchangeability is "de rigueur" in Africa. Stay with neutral colors – tan, brown and khaki – pants, shirts and shoes. A sweater or light weight jacket are best for cool mornings and evenings; often daytime clothing can take you straight through, unless you would like to change to "nice casual" for dinner. Most lodges/camps offer daily laundry services (except for underwear) at a nominal price. **(Please see the recommended packing list).**

What kind of luggage should I use?

Since you don't have to pack much in the way of formal clothing, the ideal piece of luggage is a duffle bag... very functional. These are easy to pack, easy to transport in safari vehicles, and a "must" if you are taking any internal flights. On internal domestic flights you will be limited to **15Kg (33-lbs) of luggage**, including photographic equipment. Because many roads will kick up lots of dust, it is recommended that you secure your cameras in zip-lock plastic bags.

Are there other activities besides wildlife viewing?

Certainly. There is hiking, city tours, camel rides, hot-air ballooning, and diving and snorkeling at coastal resorts. As well, our trips have a "lifelong learning focus" and do everything possible to include key-note speakers (wildlife rangers, university professors, African historians, etc) at meals and around the evening campfire.

Will I be able to be in contact with the outside world?

With few exceptions, most, if not all lodges/camps, communicate to their home base, (usually in Nairobi, Arusha or Dar-es-Salaam) by two-way radio. Similarly, your guide will allow you to use his satellite phone (\$1 per minute) anytime you wish. However, there are rarely any connections for personal laptops. If desired, you should have access to a public internet café every 3-4 days, so a personal webmail account (ie. Yahoo or Hotmail) can be accessed.