



Safari Pre-Departure Information



Africa Adventure Consultants wants you to have a wonderful trip. To ensure you have the best possible experience, **please read the following document carefully**, as it includes passport, visa, health requirements, packing list and other important information.

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<https://www.amazon.com/shop/adventuresinafrica>

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TRAVEL AND TOURIST VISA INFORMATION

Visitors to African countries are required to bring a valid passport. Most African countries require your **passport to be valid for at least 6 months after your return date and to contain sufficient blank pages** (please verify for each country) for visas and immigration stamps. You may also need a **valid visa and health certificate**.

Securing a visa is the responsibility of each traveler. Sample entry requirements for **U.S. citizens** are below. **Visa regulations and fees are subject to change; we recommend consulting your nearest consulate or embassy for the most up-to-date details.** You can also visit the United States Department of State website at <http://travel.state.gov/>. When applicable, e-Visas can generally be initiated no earlier than **3 months prior** to travel and take anywhere from 3 days to 3 weeks for approval.

COUNTRY (hyperlink)	TOURIST VISA (Valid passport required for all countries)	ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
Botswana	No visa required for stays up to 90 days	http://www.botswanaembassy.org/
Egypt	Visa required - \$25	Visas can be obtained upon arrival, or an e-Visa can be obtained in advance. Check with your Journey Specialist for the best option. https://visa2egypt.gov.eg/eVisa/Home
Ethiopia	Visa required - \$50	Visas can be obtained upon arrival at Bole International Airport in Addis Ababa, or an e-Visa can be obtained in advance at https://www.evisa.gov.et/#/home
Kenya	No Visa required as of Jan. 4, 2024 Electronic Travel Authorization (ETA) is now required. Fee is \$34 All travelers, including infants and children, are required to apply online.	ETA's must be obtained in advance at http://www.etakenya.go.ke Valid 90 days from date of issue.
Madagascar	Visa Required – Single entry \$31	Visas can be obtained upon arrival. Passport must contain three blank visa pages.
Malawi	No Visa required as of Feb. 7, 2024	
Morocco	No visa required for stays up to 90 days	Passport must contain at least two blank visa pages.
Mozambique	Electronic Travel Authorization (ETA) required as of Feb. 11, 2026. Fee is \$48	ETA's must be obtained in advance at https://evisa.gov.mz/ Applications accepted 2 months prior to travel.
Namibia	Visa required – \$90 as of Apr. 1, 2025	Passport must contain at least three blank visa pages. https://eservices.mhaiss.gov.na/visaonarrival
Rwanda*	Visa required – Single entry \$50	Visas can be obtained upon arrival, or an e-Visa can be obtained in advance but currently not recommended. https://www.migration.gov.rw
Seychelles	No visa required. Electronic Travel Authorization (ETA) is required. Fee is approx. \$20	ETA's must be obtained in advance at https://seychelles.govtas.com/ or via their ETA App Travelers may apply within 30 days of their travel date.
South Africa	No visa required	Passport must contain at least two blank visa pages upon each arrival in South Africa, including following trips to neighboring countries.
Tanzania	Visa required - \$100	E-Visas should be obtained in advance. https://visa.immigration.go.tz/

	U.S. citizens need the \$100 multiple-entry visa due to U.S. State Department reciprocity laws.	Visas are still available upon arrival, but the process can be lengthy.
Tanzania - Zanzibar	In addition to the Tanzania visa, inbound travel insurance is mandatory. \$44 per adult, \$22 per child aged 2-17	Inbound travel insurance must be purchased in advance via Zanzibar's official site. https://inbound.visitzanzibar.go.tz/
Uganda*	Visa required - \$50	E-Visas must be obtained in advance via an online system, at least two weeks prior to travel. https://www.visas.immigration.go.ug/
Zambia	No visa required as of Nov. 3, 2022	
Zimbabwe	Visa required - \$30 Single entry, \$45 Double entry	Visas can be obtained at point of entry. Passport must contain at least two blank visa pages.

Multi-Visas

***East Africa Visa \$100.00** - allows travel between Rwanda and Uganda with the same multiple entry visa. How to apply depends on which country you enter first.

- **Rwanda:** Apply through the Rwanda Online Visa Application System. Under "Type of Visa" select East Africa Tourist Visa.
- **Uganda:** Apply through the Uganda Online Visa Application System. Under "Category" select East Africa Tourist Visa.

Non-U.S. citizens should contact the relevant consulates to determine if a visa is required.

When traveling with children under the age of 18, some countries may require additional documentation.

(All minors need a valid passport.)

Please ask us for details. Here are a few examples:

South Africa: As of November 11, 2019: No additional requirements. AAC recommends taking a copy of the birth certificate as a precaution. [South Africa statement](#)

Botswana & Namibia: All minors need a certified copy of their birth certificate. If one parent is not traveling with the child, you will need a consent affidavit from the missing parent. [Botswana entry requirements](#), [Namibia entry requirements](#)

Tanzania: Minors with only one parent/legal guardian should be accompanied by a notarized letter jointly signed approving the travel. [Tanzania entry requirements](#)

PLEASE NOTE: If you send your passport to embassies or consulates, we highly recommend using FedEx, UPS, or other shipping companies that offer tracking and packages to be signed for.

HEALTH REQUIREMENTS FOR U.S. CITIZENS*

Some countries require that visitors have a Yellow Fever vaccination certificate. Most visitors also get inoculations for various diseases—check with your doctor or travel clinic for more information. Many take malaria prophylactics. We also advise clients to take out comprehensive health/travel insurance.

COUNTRY	INOCULATIONS REQUIRED	MEDICAL RECOMMENDED
Botswana	Yellow Fever if traveling from an endemic zone	Anti-malaria, and others
Egypt	Yellow Fever if traveling from an endemic zone	Others
Ethiopia	Yellow Fever if traveling from an endemic zone	Yellow Fever, Anti-malaria and others
Kenya	Yellow Fever if traveling from an endemic zone	Yellow Fever, Anti-malaria and others
Madagascar	Yellow Fever if traveling from a yellow fever endemic country within 6 months of arrival	Anti-malaria and others
Malawi	Yellow Fever if traveling from an endemic zone	Anti-malaria and others
Morocco	None	Others
Mozambique	Yellow Fever if traveling from an endemic zone	Anti-malaria and others
Namibia	Yellow Fever if traveling from an endemic zone	Anti-malaria and others
Rwanda	Yellow Fever if traveling from an endemic zone or a country with an active yellow fever outbreak	Anti-malaria and others
Seychelles	Yellow Fever if traveling from an endemic zone	Others
South Africa	Yellow Fever if traveling from an endemic or potential zone (includes Uganda, Rwanda & Kenya)	Anti-malaria and others
Tanzania	Yellow Fever if traveling from an endemic zone	Anti-malaria, and others
Uganda	Yellow Fever	Anti-malaria and others
Zambia	Yellow Fever if traveling from an endemic zone	Anti-malaria and others
Zimbabwe	Yellow Fever if traveling from an endemic zone	Anti-malaria and others

*The above requirements and recommendations are determined by the governments of these countries and could change at any time. Please consult with your physician, travel clinic, or the Centers for Disease Control for updates and additional recommended precautions. Note: Traveling ‘from’ may also include in transit.

There has been a **yellow fever vaccine shortage** in the U.S. since 2017, so please plan a visit to your clinic early. Not all clinics carry the vaccine, so you may need to call around to verify that they have it. The CDC advises getting the vaccine at least 10 days before travel, as that is the time it takes to develop immunity.

CDC LINKS

Destination list: <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/list.htm#b>

Yellow Fever Clinic Search: <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/yellow-fever-vaccination-clinics/search.htm>

INSECTS AND MALARIA

Pack repellent with [30-50% DEET](#). This is a heavy-duty repellent that you will want to try out at home if you have particularly sensitive skin. An alternative is [picaridin](#), which is odorless and considered nontoxic to birds. There are also products containing [permethrin](#) that you can spray on your clothing prior to traveling. If you are traveling with young children, it is recommended that you consult a doctor about using repellents. The key times to consider are dusk and dawn. Wear long sleeves, pants, and socks when mosquitoes are active.

It is strongly recommended to take malaria prophylactics when visiting certain areas and during certain seasons. Please consult your doctor or travel clinic for options and information.

CURRENCY

Visitors should bring cash (2013 or newer crisp USD bills with no tears or markings). Visit your bank early, as it can sometimes be difficult to obtain newer, crisp bills. If you are tipping in USD, it's good to take smaller bills, \$1, \$5, \$10 and \$20's. When acquiring visas in-country, most governments require exact USD as they may not be able to give change.

Credit cards are not readily accepted, although most major lodges and camps will take them. Keep in mind that foreign transaction fees and surcharges may be imposed. Bring a credit card for emergency travel expenses or for larger souvenirs, but do not rely on it for daily use. Visa and Mastercard are more widely accepted than American Express. ATMs are limited and not always reliable.

ELECTRICITY

The United States uses a 110-volt system. Most of Africa uses a 220–240-volt system, so you will need a voltage converter unless your appliance is dual voltage, which many modern phones and electronics are. Check each country for specific adaptor plugs. <https://www.iec.ch/world-plugs>.

Note: There can be periodic electricity outages in some African cities. The vast majority of travelers should not be affected; however, you should be aware of potential power outages, particularly in South Africa and Uganda.

SAFETY

Residents of East and Southern Africa are generally friendly, welcoming people. Most visitors find that they have very positive experiences with locals. That said, caution is recommended for all travelers. **Valuables:** Keep your money and passport with you at all times. Use caution at ATMs. Leave your expensive jewelry at home; don't check valuables in checked baggage. **Cities and Towns:** Never walk anywhere at night—even a few blocks. Do not walk unescorted into remote or dangerous looking areas. Women, especially, should be careful to dress conservatively, carry minimal money or equipment, and use caution. Be wary of individuals who try to help you too aggressively. **In the Bush:** Never walk unescorted, especially in tented camps and lodges, especially at night. Wildlife could be anywhere. **Everywhere:** Use caution and leave an area if you feel uncomfortable. If any disagreements arise with hotel staff, taxi drivers, locals, etc., do not raise your voice, as Africans do not generally respond well to this. Be persistent and polite and remember that sometimes, things take a lot longer to get accomplished in Africa than they do where you are from. For added security, the State Department recommends registering your travel details with them. By enrolling, U.S. citizens make it easier for the Embassy to contact them in case of emergency: <https://step.state.gov/step/>

LGBTQI+ travelers are welcome in most parts of Africa, but should exercise caution regarding public displays of affection and should consider keeping a lower profile in areas where traditional or conservative beliefs seem to be predominant. If you have concerns, please check with the State Department for country information concerning Local Laws and Special Circumstances: <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/International-Travel-Country-Information-Pages.html>

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Telephone, internet, and Wi-Fi services can be limited in many African countries, particularly in remote camps and lodges where service may be inconsistent or unavailable. You may be without connectivity at times.

Most major U.S. cell providers offer coverage in Africa; contact your service provider for specific details and rates. A local **SIM card** is a reliable and affordable option, with good coverage and prepaid data plans available in most areas. Alternatively, you can purchase an **eSIM** – a digital version of the physical SIM card – before departure. Note that setup may be somewhat technical for first-time users.

WhatsApp is widely used for Wi-Fi calls and messaging. It's an easy and cost-effective way to connect with guides, hotels, and family. We suggest that you download the app and add your contacts before departure.

WHAT TO EXPECT WHILE ON SAFARI

Your day usually starts with an early wake-up and a light breakfast, then a morning game drive to catch the animals in action before the heat of the day sets in. You may stop for tea or coffee and snacks before returning to your camp/lodge for lunch and a siesta. You will then head out for a late afternoon game drive, where often you will end with a 'sundowner' (drinks and snacks in the bush). You will then return to the camp/lodge in time for dinner. There may be times when you stay out all day and a picnic lunch is then provided. Check your itinerary for specific details. Your safari vehicles will be comfortable, and your drivers are experts, but some of the roads will be bumpy and it can get dusty. Most safari vehicles do not have air conditioning.

FOOD AND DRINK

Dietary needs such as vegetarian, vegan, gluten-free and nut allergies can be accommodated. Many properties are remote and have all supplies flown in; if you forgot to include a note in your AAC booking form, please inform us so we can alert your accommodations in advance. It is also helpful to remind camp staff and/or waiters upon arrival.

The safari camps and lodges suggested by AAC adhere to high standards of food hygiene. Raw fruits and vegetables, including salads, are washed in purified water and are safe to consume. For restaurants outside your camps or lodges, ask locally about food preparation practices and standards. Street food and drink are not safe, unless you are on a tasting tour arranged by AAC.

Dehydration can cause you to feel ill with symptoms similar to food poisoning, so please stay hydrated. However, **tap water is not safe to drink**, even while brushing your teeth. Purified water is available to guests, either bottled or in jugs with refillable containers. Even ice cubes are made with purified water. If in doubt, please ask.

PLASTIC BAG BAN

Non-biodegradable single-use plastic bags are banned in many countries throughout Africa, including **Rwanda, Kenya, Tanzania, Botswana** and **Zambia**. These restrictions are quite strictly enforced, so please keep this in mind when packing for your safari. Some countries allow Ziploc bags specifically used for carrying liquids if they are expected to remain in your possession and not disposed of in the country. We recommend using TSA-approved see-through reusable bags as opposed to standard one-time use Ziploc bags.

MONTHLY AVERAGE TEMPERATURE & PRECIPITATION

	CLIMATE	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Botswana <i>Maun</i>	Temp (°F)	91/70	91/68	90/67	89/61	83/54	80/48	78/48	85/53	92/61	97/69	95/70	93/70
	Rainfall	4"	3"	3"	1"	0"	0"	0"	0"	0"	1"	3"	3"
	Altitude	2,952' above sea level											
Egypt <i>Cairo</i>	Temp (°F)	67/50	70/52	76/56	84/61	91/66	95/72	96/74	95/75	92/72	86/67	77/59	69/52
	Rainfall	0.2"	0.2"	0.2"	0"	0"	0"	0"	0"	0"	0"	0.2"	0.2"
	Altitude	75' above sea level											
Ethiopia <i>Addis Ababa</i>	Temp (°F)	68/53	70/54	70/57	72/58	71/58	67/56	63/55	64/54	66/55	67/54	67/52	67/51
	Rainfall	0.6"	1.4"	2.5"	3.3"	2.9"	4.7"	9.2"	9.6"	5.5"	1.2"	0.2"	0.2"
	Altitude	7,726' above sea level											
Kenya <i>Nairobi</i>	Temp (°F)	76/52	78/53	78/56	75/57	73/56	71/52	69/52	71/51	75/51	76/55	74/56	74/55
	Rainfall	2.5"	2.2"	3.6"	8.6"	6.9"	1.4"	0.7"	0.9"	1.1"	2.2"	6.7"	3.9"
	Altitude	5,450' above sea level											
Madagascar <i>Antananarivo</i>	Temp (°F)	81/62	81/63	80/62	79/59	75/55	71/50	70/49	72/50	76/52	80/56	82/59	82/62
	Rainfall	13"	10"	7"	3"	2"	0"	1"	0"	1"	2"	6"	12"
	Altitude	4,186' above sea level											
Morocco <i>Marrakech</i>	Temp (°F)	66/44	70/47	76/52	80/55	85/59	95/66	101/70	100/70	91/66	84/61	74/52	68/46
	Rainfall	1.25"	1.49"	1.49"	1.53"	.94"	.19"	.03"	.11"	.23"	.94"	1.61"	.51"
	Altitude	1,529' above sea level											
Mozambique <i>Maputo</i>	Temp (°F)	85/71	86/71	87/72	83/66	81/62	79/58	78/57	78/58	79/61	79/63	84/69	86/72
	Rainfall	5"	4"	3"	2"	1"	1"	1"	.05"	1"	2"	4"	4"
	Altitude	154' above sea level											
Namibia <i>Windhoek</i>	Temp (°F)	88/64	84/63	82/61	79/55	74/48	70/45	70/45	75/48	80/54	84/59	86/61	88/63
	Rainfall	3"	3"	3"	1.5"	0.3"	0"	0"	0"	0.1"	0.1"	1"	1.6"
	Altitude	5,670' above sea level											
Rwanda <i>Kigali</i>	Temp (°F)	81/60	82/60	80/81	79/60	79/61	80/60	81/59	83/60	83/61	81/60	79/60	80/60
	Rainfall	3"	4"	5"	4"	2"	0"	0"	1"	2"	5"	3"	4"
	Altitude	4,911' above sea level											
Seychelles <i>Mahe</i>	Temp (°F)	86/73	88/77	88/77	90/77	88/77	84/75	82/73	84/73	81/75	82/75	86/73	86/73
	Rainfall	12"	10"	7.5"	6.75"	5.5"	4.5"	4.75"	5"	6.5"	6.5"	7"	10"
	Altitude	Up to 2,969' above sea level											
South Africa <i>Cape Town</i>	Temp (°F)	78/60	79/60	77/58	72/53	67/49	65/41	63/45	64/46	65/49	70/52	73/55	76/58
	Rainfall	0.6"	0.7"	0.7"	2"	3"	4"	3"	3"	2"	1.5"	0.6"	.07"
	Altitude	137' above sea level											
South Africa <i>Johannesburg</i>	Temp (°F)	78/58	77/58	75/55	72/50	72/50	66/43	62/38	63/39	73/48	77/53	77/55	78/57
	Rainfall	5.9"	5.1"	4.3"	1.9"	1"	0.3"	0.4"	1"	1"	2.6"	5"	5.6"
	Altitude	5,751' above sea level											
Tanzania <i>Arusha</i>	Temp (°F)	84/50	84/51	81/53	77/57	72/52	70/48	69/49	72/48	76/47	80/51	81/50	81/50
	Rainfall	2.6"	3"	6.3"	8"	3.1"	1.3"	0.6"	0.7"	0.7"	1.4"	4.9"	3.9"
	Altitude	4,593' above sea level											
Tanzania <i>Zanzibar</i>	Temp (°F)	89/76	88/75	87/76	84/76	83/73	81/73	81/7	86/68	85/69	85/70	85/73	87/75
	Rainfall	3"	1.3"	5"	7.5"	7"	2.4"	1.2"	1"	1"	3.8"	7"	5"
	Altitude	49' above sea level											
Uganda <i>Kampala</i>	Temp (°F)	80/63	80/64	79/64	78/77	77/64	77/63	76/77	77/61	79/62	80/63	79/63	78/63
	Rainfall	2.3"	2.7"	5"	7.3"	5.3"	2.8"	2.2"	3.4"	3.9"	4.7"	5.6"	3.7"
	Altitude	3,740' above sea level											
Victoria Falls	Temp (°F)	86/66	87/66	86/64	86/59	82/52	77/46	78/45	83/50	90/59	95/67	92/68	87/66
	Rainfall	6.9"	5.9"	3.6"	0.7"	0.2"	0"	0"	0"	0.1"	0.8"	2.5"	6.5"
	Altitude	2,904' above sea level											
Zambia <i>Lusaka</i>	Temp (°F)	81/63	81/63	81/61	81/57	77/52	75/48	73/48	79/54	86/59	88/64	86/64	81/63
	Rainfall	9.0"	7.5"	5.6"	0.7"	0.1"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.4"	3.6"	5.9"
	Altitude	4,196' above sea level											
Zimbabwe <i>Hwange</i>	Temp (°F)	84/64	84/64	86/61	81/57	77/48	77/43	82/43	90/46	93/55	93/63	90/64	86/64
	Rainfall	5.3"	4.0"	2.2"	1.1"	0.2"	0.1"	0.0"	0.0"	0.2"	0.8"	2.0"	4.6"
	Altitude	2,530' above sea level											

SUGGESTED READING LIST

Nothing will make your trip more satisfying than knowing something about the places you're visiting.

For a full list, including children's books, see our [Amazon Store](#)

Guidebooks, Manuals and Maps

Birds of East Africa: Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda,

Rwanda, Burundi by Terry Stevenson, John Fanshawe

Newman's Birds of Southern Africa by Kenneth Newman

Sassol Birds of Southern Africa by Ian Sinclair and Phil Hockey

Wildlife of East Africa by Martin Withers, David Hoskings

Wildlife of Southern Africa by Vincent Carruthers

The Kingdon Pocket Guide to African Mammals by Jonathan Kingdon

The Safari Companion by Richard D. Estes

Lonely Planet East Africa

East African Wildlife (Bradt) by Philip Briggs

Lonely Planet Cape Town & the Garden Route

Southern African Wildlife (Bradt) by Mike Unwin

Lonely Planet Botswana & Namibia

A Field Guide to the Tracks and Signs of Southern and East African Wildlife by Chris and Tilde Stuart

The Behavior Guide to African Mammals by Richard D. Estes

National Audubon Society Field Guide to African Wildlife by Alden, Estes, Schlitter and McBride

Wildlife/Ecology

In the Shadow of Man by Jane Goodall

Wild Rituals: 10 Lessons Animals Can Teach Us by Caitlin O'Connell

Ivory: Power of Poaching in Africa by Keith Somerville

Elephant Memories: Thirteen Years in the Life of an Elephant Family by Cynthia Moss

The Tree Where Man Was Born by Peter Matthiessen

Ancestral Passions: The Leakey Family and the Quest for Humankind's Beginnings by Virginia Morrell

Memoirs/Biographies/History

The Elephant Whisperer by Lawrence Anthony

An Elephant in my Kitchen by Françoise Malby-Anthony

Love, Life, and Elephants: An African Love Story by Daphne Sheldrick

Born a Crime by Trevor Noah

Long Walk to Freedom: The Autobiography of Nelson Mandela by Nelson Mandela

The Flame Trees of Thika by Elspeth Huxley

Out of Africa by Isak Dinesen

Dark Safari: The Life Behind the Legend of Henry Morton Stanley by John Bierman

I Dreamed of Africa by Kuki Gallmann

West with the Night by Beryl Markham

Woman in the Mists: The Story of Dian Fossey and the Mountain Gorillas of Africa by Farley Mowat

Africans and Their History by Joseph E. Harris

The Penguin Atlas of African History by Colin McEvedy

Out of Africa: A Black Man Confronts Africa by Keith R. Richburg

When a Crocodile Eats the Sun by Peter Godwin

Whatever You Do, Don't Run: True Tales of A Botswana Safari Guide by Peter Allison

Fiction

Cry the Beloved Country by Alan Paton

Things Fall Apart by Chinua Achebe

Petals of Blood by Ngugi wa Thiong'o

The River Between by Ngugi wa Thiong'o

A Good Man in Africa by William Boyd

An Ice Cream War by William Boyd

The Poisonwood Bible by Barbara Kingsolver

The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency Series by Alexander McCall Smith

SAFARI PACKING LIST

In general, pack light and use layers. For a typical 10-12-day safari, we recommend the following. Please note that many safaris utilize small plane flights, which limit luggage, including carry-on bags, to a total of 33-44 lbs. per person – restrictions will be outlined in your personalized itinerary. **Soft-sided luggage, such as duffel bags or rolling duffels, is recommended.** Also, note that some airlines prohibit hard-sided luggage and some frames, so contact your Safari Concierge for details.

When packing, keep in mind that most lodges and camps offer guest laundry services (some at a nominal fee). However, please note that some may not wash women's underwear due to cultural reasons.

Clothing

- 2 pairs long pants - convertible (zip-off) pants and quick dry fabrics are a good option
- 2 pairs shorts
- 3-4 short-sleeved T-shirts or polo shirts
- 2 long-sleeved shirts
- 1 sweater, hoodie or fleece
- 1 jacket
 - Light for summer (September-April)
 - Heavy for winter (May-August)
- 1 rain jacket
- 7 pairs underwear
- 7 pairs socks
- 1 pair comfortable walking shoes (sneakers or light hikers)
- 1 pair sandals, flip flops or Teva-type shoes
- Travel dress or skirt (women - optional for city or train travel)
- Bras + full support garments for bumpy roads
- Sun hat
- Swimwear if your camps/lodges have pools

Essentials

- Sunglasses
- Sunscreen
- Wet wipes or hand sanitizer
- Insect repellent

- Medication, including malaria tablets, should be in your carry-on (in original RX containers)
- Basic medical/toiletry kit (aspirin, Imodium, antiseptic cream, toothbrush, toothpaste, etc.)

Accessories

- Adapters or converters for electronic equipment
- Binoculars (compact size)
- Camera with good optical zoom - have plenty of memory and a charger
- Reading material
- Flashlight or headlamp
- Passport and final travel documents
- Copy of your passport and insurance policy – also leave a copy at home

Optional

- Day pack to store binoculars, rain jacket & misc. items is helpful while on game drives
- Bandana, buff or scarf to protect from dust or for added warmth
- Gloves and warm hat (especially during Africa's winter months)
- Portable battery pack/charger
- Loungewear/sweats
- Sleepwear

Notes:

- Neutral colors are preferred. Bright colors and camouflage clothing are not recommended while on game drives. People in many African countries expect visitors to dress conservatively.
- Most of the smaller camps run on generators, so **hairdryers are not permitted**. Some hotels and lodges have hairdryers for your use, so there is no need to bring your hairdryer.
- Most camps/lodges provide basic shampoo and soap; some include conditioner and lotion. You may want to take small sizes of your preferred amenities. Biodegradable shampoos & soaps are often preferred.
- **Take a change of clothes and your toiletries in a carry-on bag in case of lost or delayed luggage.**

TIPPING

Tiping is customary in Africa, but how much you tip is a personal decision and should be based on your level of satisfaction with services provided. Most countries accept tips in USD. However, South Africans prefer South African rand and Rwandans accept USD but prefer Rwandan francs. We suggest taking **small bills** (\$1, \$5, \$10 & \$20) as well as envelopes to organize your tips. Below are our recommended guidelines. We also recommend taking a few hundred extra dollars to cover tips for outstanding service or unexpected expenses.

SAFARI	RECOMMENDED TIPPING AMOUNT
Safari driver-guide	\$20 to \$25 per traveler, per day, given at end of stay or safari. Maximum \$50 per family per day. Some 5-star accommodations may recommend higher amounts.
Camp/lodge staff	\$10 to \$15 per traveler, per day in the staff tip box at the end of your stay at each property. Maximum \$25 per family per day.
Private mobile camps	\$20 to \$25 per group, per day for each camp cook/staff. Maximum \$50 per family per day.
Tracker <i>(if applicable)</i>	\$10 to \$15 per traveler, per day. Trackers are used mainly in Southern Africa.

EXPERIENCES	RECOMMENDED TIPPING AMOUNT
Canoeing guide or mokoro poler	\$5 to \$10 per trip
Horseback and camel ride guide	\$5 to \$10 per ride
Hot air balloon ride	\$10 to \$20 per person to pilot <i>(they will split tips with balloon staff)</i>
Kilimanjaro guides, staff and porters	Please see our Kili tipping guidelines
Primate Treks	Please see our gorilla trekking tips
Scuba diving/snorkeling	\$10 to \$20 per traveler for crew. Optional extra for captain
Train staff	\$10 to \$20 per traveler per night
Walking safari guide	\$10 to \$20 per traveler, per walk
White water rafting	\$10 to \$20 per traveler
Victoria Falls River cruise staff	\$5 to \$10 per traveler given in the boat tip box

CITY ACTIVITIES	RECOMMENDED TIPPING AMOUNT
City touring driver and/or guides <i>(Non-safari)</i>	\$5 per traveler – Half-day tour \$10 per traveler – Full-day tour
City airport/hotel transfer driver	\$5 per transfer, per group
City hotel staff & housekeeping	\$2 to \$4 per traveler, per day
City hotel porters	\$1 per traveler, per bag
Airport Meet and Assist	\$5 per group