

Essential Info – 1

All info that follows is to provide guidance and given in good faith. It is based on the latest information but remember this can be subject to change. CKS = Chris Kruger Safari's



Health/Medical/Vaccinations



Anyone participating in safari activities must be in good health. Remember modern medical facilities are available but only in major towns and cities but not in the remote areas we visit. Some vaccinations are prescribed for RSA, Namibia, Botswana, Zambia and Zimbabwe and we recommend that you vaccinate for Tetanus. It is also recommended that visitors consult their local GP or vaccination centre before traveling but don't go over board and get very imaginable inoculation possible, it is not necessary especially for the Southern African region.

Anyone who has to take special medication (e.g. blood pressure) should take enough supplies to last your whole visit as your specific brand may not be available locally. We also suggest carrying an extra prescription in case essential medication is lost.



Malaria

First of all you need to know most mosquitoes don't carry malaria (only the female of the Anopheles specie), so if you get bitten it doesn't automatically mean that you have contracted malaria. Malaria is however endemic in some safari areas and it is recommended that you take malaria tablets (prophylactics) before, during and after your visit as prescribed by your medical practitioner. This will normally be from 2 weeks before travel until 4 weeks after returning home. Seek a qualified medical opinion in your country of residence before you leave and come supplied with good insect repellent and suitable clothing to "cover" up. Remember your ankles and wrists are the most critical areas to cover.

Concerns about malaria should not affect your decision to go on an African safari but something one should be aware of, take the necessary precautions and practice prevention.

Also remember malaria is mostly seasonal in summer rainfall areas (Late November- March). Most safari lodges (tents or permanent structures) in wilderness areas have insect nets and/or screens installed on windows and/or doors to block insects. Some also have mosquito nets over your bed to sleep under.

Any person developing flu-like symptoms 7-21 days after being in a malaria area should be tested for malaria.



Visas/passports

A valid passport is essential when traveling abroad not just for crossing borders between countries but you'll need one for changing money. Depending on your nationality you may require visas to enter certain African countries. For some countries like Zambia and Zimbabwe visas can be obtained at your point of entry. Please check with your local travel agent or the relevant embassy, consulate or High Commission in your area to verify if you need a visa for a particular country. Requirements are changing often and you may miss part of your safari if you don't have the necessary visa.

If you need to apply or renew an expired passport, please do so at least 6 months before you are due to travel.

Make sure your passport is valid for at least six months after your safari ends and that you have ample blank pages, at least 5-6.

If you have dual nationality you should only use ONE passport.

We recommend that our clients make a few photocopies of their passports, visas and flight tickets and pack it separately from your actual passport



Climate/weather

The seasons of the Southern African Region are the reverse of those in the Northern hemisphere with mid-winter in June and July and mid-summer in December and January. In general the Southern African Region is hot to warm in the summer and cold to cool in the winter with snow only occurring in high altitude areas. The seasons are not as distinct as in the northern hemisphere and most countries down here have a short winter (3 months) and a long summer. During the winter, days are very pleasant but nights and mornings are cold. The year starts with summer during the months of December, January and February. Autumn is from March, April and May. Winter months are June, July and August. Spring months are September, October and November. April to October (autumn, winter and spring) is usually dry with minimum rain and it is the best time for a safari.

Rainy season differs from country to country but in general it peaks from November to Feb/March and comes in the form of thunderstorms. Please bring along some sun block



Travel insurance

All persons who travel on safari must have appropriate travel insurance that is valid. Policies should be able to cover medical expenses, lost luggage, trip cancellation and personal effects costs.

If you bring along some expensive camera equipment it is advisable to have these items covered by insurance



Luggage

Luggage space on safari is restricted and it is advisable to bring only one medium suitcase, soft duffel bag or backpack per person with a small carry-on. A luggage weight of 12 kg per person applies to wing- or fly-in safaris (smaller Cessna planes are used). Scheduled domestic airlines (Boeings) have a luggage weight restriction of 20- 25kg (44-55lb) per person - check with your airline as well. Remember - Airlines will charge you if your luggage are over the allowed weight. Please make sure ALL luggage is locked, labeled with your name, surname and home address clearly visible.

For excess luggage, storage facilities are available at some airports and hotels/lodges.

Although every effort is made to handle luggage carefully, CKS cannot be held responsible for loss or damage to luggage or personal effects due to theft and/or normal wear and tear that results from handling.



Banks/money

There is a good supply of banks in all Southern African countries with money changing facilities (bureau de change) in most airports, shopping malls, hotels and tourist centers (but not in remote areas).

You need your passport to change money and/or travelers cheques and in most cases there will be a small commission charge with each transaction.

Credit card (and debit card) purchases are possible and safe at most tourist facilities but not always guaranteed. For obvious reasons there are no credit/debit card facilities at some lodges, remote locations and markets – cash will be needed.

You can draw cash at any ATM that is compatible with your card, e.g. Cirrus, Visa, MasterCard, American express and Diners Club.

Master Card and Visa are widely accepted with more limited use placed on American Express and Diners Club.

Please confirm that your PIN is working before you leave your home country!

Please make sure you carry small denominations of US dollars/Pounds or Euros, as change is not always available.

Each country has its own currency but in general US Dollar (U\$) is King in Africa (as well as Rand in Southern parts of Africa)!

Rand (R) - South Africa

Namibian Dollar (N\$) – Namibia

Pula (P) – Botswana

Kwacha (K) – Zambia

U\$ - Zimbabwe

Clothing

Safaris in Africa are relaxed and there is no need to bring formal clothing. Comfortable easy drying neutral (beige, khaki or green) colored clothing for safaris are recommended. Avoid dark blue or black colors as these may attract tsetse flies. June, July and August one may experience cold nights and mornings so remember to take some warmer clothing that you can layer as well as gloves. Comfortable closed hiking shoes are essential as well as a good pair of sandals or flip-flops and of course a good hat or cap and sunglasses.

Lightweight rain gear (poncho) and a small folding umbrella are also useful



Drinking water

Water is safe for human use in Southern African countries and at lodges and safari camps (unless otherwise specified) and bottled water is regularly available.

It is also perfectly safe to eat salads and fruits presented at restaurants and/or safari camps and tourist facilities

–🔌 Electricity/Adaptors

Electricity is 220V and wall plugs have 3 thick round pins. Some bathrooms have sockets that take plugs with two thin round pins. International adaptors can be bought at most airports and tourist centers. In some cases the safari lodge will borrow you an adapter for the duration of your stay.

Essential Info – 2



Shopping/Souvenirs

There are plenty of shopping opportunities in Africa. In cities and larger towns one finds the normal shopping malls which are open 7 days a week with a good selection of clothes, shoes, outdoor gear and jewelry. Please make sure you receive a receipt with the store's VAT No. clearly printed (you'll need this to get a tax refund at the airport on your day of departure from a country).

Traditional African crafts such as baskets, clay pots, carvings, beadwork, wooden bowls and paintings are available from craft stores and roadside markets near tourist attractions or routes. Because tourists normally come from countries with stronger currencies, purchases are comparatively inexpensive



Language

English is widely spoken in the Southern African region (South Africa, Botswana, Namibia, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Mozambique, Swaziland and Lesotho) and by most personnel involved in the tourism industry.

Most countries also still use their colonial language, for instance – Dutch in South Africa (called Afrikaans down here), German in Namibia and Portuguese in Mozambique



Safety/security

Safari areas in the Southern African region are relatively safe in terms of crime. One should however apply common sense and take precautions as in any other country around the world. Treat strangers as strangers and be alert and vigilant and listen to your local guide. In case of an emergency go to the nearest public place or police station.

Don't wear expensive watches and jewelry and/or carry large amounts of cash– you won't need it in the bush anyway.

Utilize safes in hotel rooms or lodge receptions for your airline tickets, surplus cash and passports



Telephone/Internet



Telephone and internet facilities are readily available at most airports, hotels, city/town lodges, shopping malls and tourist centers. For obvious reasons it might not be available in remote safari locations.

These days cell phone reception is possible all over the world (where there is a signal and/or reception) but you have to register or apply for "International Roaming" with your local cell phone company before you leave for Africa.

It is also possible to rent a cell phone at the airport on arrival



Local time

The Southern African region has only one time zone and is +2 hours ahead of GMT (Greenwich Mean Time – Greenwich, England) and +7 hours ahead of EST (Eastern standard time, East coast of USA).

Johannesburg in South Africa is for example

7 hours ahead of New York

2 hours ahead of London

7 hours behind Sydney



Airports/Departure tax



There might be a few airports in Africa where one has to pay an airport departure tax before exiting the country.

These are normally paid in US\$ and are the responsibility of the client.

You will be advised in advance and/or you can check with your travel agent/Embassy



Optional activities



On most safaris there will be extra activities available to enhance your vacation e.g. hot air balloon flight or river rafting.

All options are at your expense and chosen for their quality and value and carry the approval of CKS.

Reservations can be made with your local guide or lodge reception and/or sometimes in advance with CKS



Acceptance of risk

Please be aware that safaris may bring you into close contact with Africa's wilderness areas, wild animals and creatures and expose you to the elements like the sun.

Attacks by wild animals are rare but no safari to the African wilderness can guarantee that this will not occur.

Every effort is made to ensure that you enjoy a safe journey by using qualified guides and reliable registered transport.

Most lodges have emergency procedures and first aid kits.

Neither CKS nor its agents can be held responsible for any injury or incident on your safari. Please be aware that you **will be required** to sign an indemnity form before participating in any safari activity

Tipping/Gratuities

It is the custom down here to add a minimum of 10% to your bill total in restaurants and pubs/bars. (As a rule the tip for your waiter/waitress is not included).

It is also customary to tip your ranger/tracker/guide/tour leader at the end of your trip. It is a voluntary and private matter and totally at your discretion. However we recommend US\$ 10-20 per person per day.

Porterage is generally US \$ 3-5 per movement.

Age limit

Most game viewing and photographic safaris are suitable for all reasonable fit and healthy people who can handle a bit of bumpy road conditions, short walks and a bit of sun (and sometimes heat).

You will be made aware if there are more strenuous activities like long hikes/ climbs or canoeing involved.

Families with children are accepted although some lodges don't accept children younger than 12 years. Tailor-made safaris for families or groups can be arranged

Essential Info – 3



Packing tips /check list

We highly recommend that your carry-on bag be a backpack

Check that you bring along the following:

- Clothes
- Sun screen
- Notepad/pen
-  -Camera
- Flashlight/headlamp
- Binoculars
- Personal medication
- Light raingear/poncho
- Shoes/flip-flops
- Insect repellent
- Ziploc bags
- Charger cables
-  -Sunglasses
- Extra memory card
- Extra contact Lenses
- Passport/money/visas/flight tickets
- Liquid hand wash/wet wipes
-  -Personal toiletries
- Basic medical kit with the following: anti- histamine/Imodium/band-aids/antiseptic cream/aspirins.
- Hat/cap
- Cell phone (GSM)
- International adaptor
- Driver's license/credit cards
- Extra batteries
- Maps and reading material
- Small calculator
- Extra luggage labels
-  -Travel alarm clock



Booking Conditions

Deposit: 25% non-refundable deposit required with booking 8 weeks (60 days) prior to departure.

Balance of the cost must be received by CKS not less than 6 weeks prior to departure of your safari.

Bookings made less than 6 weeks prior to the safari, the full cost is payable with booking.

Be aware that some institutions require full payment when a booking is made and you will be advised accordingly.

Delays/Changes: Changing of a booking is subject to availability and incurs an extra cost of R200/US \$30

Booking cancellation: Notice of cancellation MUST be made in writing to CKS.

Your deposit is non-refundable

Laundry

This service is readily available in most hotels and larger lodges, at an extra cost.

Some remote camps don't have this service due to a lack of water and electricity. Keep in mind that due to traditional beliefs some lodge staff will not wash underwear

Extra services

As a service to our guests CKS can provide you (before or after your trip) with car hire, airport transfers and accommodation bookings on request and at an extra cost



Driving conditions

Driving in the Southern African region is on the LEFT!

Road sign distances and speed limits are in kilometers (km).

The region has an excellent network of roads and all major routes are tarred and many are toll roads (cash only).

Watch out for pedestrians, they often fail to look before crossing.

Avoid driving at night if at all possible.

When traveling through rural areas go slow and keep an eye out for wild and domestic animals like cattle and goats which often graze close to the road and rivers.

A valid driver's license, issued in any country is accepted, provided it carries a photograph and is printed in English (or accompanied by a certificate of authenticity issued by the relevant Embassy or Authority).

Only cash can be used to pay for fuel and in main centers filling stations are open 24 hours, otherwise from 7am-7pm



Guides

A qualified and registered guide /ranger will accompany you and is in charge of the vehicle and group.

He / She is responsible for the success of the safari and the well-being of the clients.

Great care is taken in selecting our guides who are fully trained in all aspects of wildlife identification and behavior. Most are full time professionals with years of experience and all can speak English.

The customary "end of safari" tip is not included and should be extended on a voluntary basis. As a guideline \$5- \$10 per person per day is recommended

Emergencies

Most safari lodges and camps have medical emergency evacuation and fire escape procedures in place and all have first aid kits and contact details of the nearest medical doctors.

Make sure your personal insurance is up to date and valid



Smoking policy

Most countries have similar smoking restrictions in place like no smoking allowed in restaurants, inside airports and hotel accommodation and especially safari tents. However during safaris and road transfers frequent stops will be made to accommodate smokers.

Staff is expected to observe non-smoking areas

What is included

All entrance/conservation and admission fees to National parks and Game reserves as specified in your itinerary.

All Accommodation and meals specified in your itinerary. (2 or 3 meals a day)

Internal or domestic flights specified in your itinerary.

All game drives and safari activities specified in your itinerary



What is NOT included.

International airfares, transfers, optional activities, meals and accommodation not specified in your itinerary.

Alcoholic beverages and minerals.

Items of personal nature and laundry.

Personal insurance and medical expenses.

Some airport and departure taxes not specified in your itinerary.

Visas.

Phone calls and/or internet.

Gratuities/tips

Delays/changes/disruptions.

We at CKS take great care to ensure that arrangements are in place and that safaris go ahead as planned but if needed, reserve the right to revise or alter part of a safari in response to local conditions (e.g. Park authorities, adverse weather, political unrest, industrial actions or natural disasters).

Sometimes your travel dates while in Africa might be during religious or state holidays. These holidays may disrupt attractions/shopping visits. We try and make sure to minimize disruptions during your safari; however we cannot be held responsible for attractions/shops being closed

Tax/VAT refund.

Most shops and facilities charge VAT (value added tax) on items and services. VAT can be claimed back at the International departures terminal before you leave a country on condition that you can provide the original receipt (with the VAT number clearly printed) AND the item at the VAT refund counter on the request of the official.

VAT cannot be claimed back in regards of food and drinks but only on goods



Single travelers.

The cost of most itineraries is based on a minimum of two (2) persons sharing the accommodation, transport and safari activities.

If you travel alone you will have to pay the same as two people would - see single supplement.

On some overland truck safaris one can however reserve a "seat" and travel single without paying the single supplement, but keep in mind that accommodation on these trips is shared on a same gender basis