



IS IT SAFE TO TRAVEL TO

AFRICA / INDIA / AUSTRALIA

It's sensible to take some basic precautions whilst traveling anywhere in the world. Below are recommendations that we feel hold true for travel in general and which we thus suggest are followed during a southern African itinerary – they apply mostly to travel in the major cities and towns but elements are also relevant for stays in camps in conservation areas. It is advisable to lock your luggage with a suitable lock or at least with cable ties when flying both locally (within South Africa or to neighboring countries) and internationally. As an additional precaution we suggest that check in luggage is shrink-wrapped. Please do not check-in any valuables. Valuables and any chronic medication should be kept in your carry-on luggage. Never leave your luggage unattended (e.g. don't leave handbags under tables, on the backs of chairs or on restroom hooks). Please report any stolen property and/or any incident involving your safety and security to the establishment where you are staying. Separate your cash and credit cards and don't carry all your cash with you. Avoid counting cash in the open. Do not allow strangers to assist you in your transactions at automated bank teller machines (ATM's). Store any valuables, travel documents (passports/airline tickets) and additional cash in your hotel's safety deposit box or camp safe. Keep your room locked at all times and hand in room keys or cards whenever you leave your hotel. Take note of and abide by any warnings posted in public areas and parks.

In major cities be aware as anywhere in the world that there are always criminal elements and opportunistic crime is always a risk. Do not go to areas that have a high crime rate, and if you are not with one of our hosts or guests on one of our activities please be careful about where you go alone. There will always be an emergency number for you to call to reach one of our representatives in whatever country you are traveling.

WHAT IS THE BEST TIME OF YEAR TO TRAVEL

It is important to note that the regions covered are vast and it is hard to generalize on best times to visit. We work with our guests to determine interest and tolerances, and craft our experiences from there so weather is not a factor. That being said here are some general guidelines:

Weather

Southern Africa

The winter time from June through September is historically the best time to go to the game viewing areas as it is cool and dry, the vegetation is low and visibility is high. Also animals tend to be concentrated around water sources. However, the summer months can be hotter and sometimes rainy, but the advantages are that the grass is green and the landscapes are lush and rich. Also, in the months of November and December many of the antelope and savannah game species give birth so populations and predator activity are high. At the destinations we will be sending you to, there is no disadvantage to game viewing at any time of year. You will be in the hands of an expert guide who will give you the best opportunity to have the best game experience for the time of year you choose to travel in.

The only part of the subcontinent that has winter rain is the Cape, so Cape Town can be cold and rainy at this time of year, but the winter weather patterns tend to alternate with sunny spells so it can also be beautiful and clear!. Of course Cape Town is fabulous in any weather.

East/ Central Africa

Tanzania and Kenya

Again there is no really bad time to visit this region. Generally the main rainy season, or the 'long rains', lasts through March, April and May. Afternoon tropical downpours are the norm – which are heavier and more predictable beside the coast and on the islands. The humidity is high and daily temperatures reach the low-mid 30°s.

The long dry season lasts throughout June, July, August, September and October is when rainfall is unusual, even on the islands. Temperatures vary hugely with altitude and location, but it's usually a fine, clear sky and sunny weather – it's a great time to visit. During November and December there's another rainy season: the 'short rains'. These are much lighter than the main rains and less reliable.

If it has rained during the short rains, then it normally dries up for a few months, January and February, which is the 'short dry season', before starting to rain again in earnest in March.

Rwanda/Uganda

The relatively high altitude of these countries provides them with a remarkably pleasant tropical highland climate, albeit also with plenty of rain. Temperatures vary considerably between locations depending on their altitude, but very little from month to month in the same place. The average daily temperature is about 21°C.

The long rainy season lasts from about March to May, when the rain is heavy and persistent. Then from June to mid-September is the long dry season; this is generally the best time to visit if you have the choice.

October to November is a shorter rainy season and it's followed by a short dry season from December to February.

During both of the dry seasons, there is often light cloud cover. This helps to moderate the temperatures, but also occasionally brings light rain showers.

India

India has a vast range of climatic conditions from tropical in the south to alpine in the north. Most of the country outside the Himalaya region is at its best for travel between October and March. At this time, days are mild to warm, nights comfortable and rain (expect in the south east) is very rare. From April onwards the humidity level rises with the temperatures and with the onset of the monsoon in June travel can be difficult in places. The advantages of travel outside the peak season are reduced tariffs, and fewer tourists. At virtually any time of the year, some part of India or other will be suitable to visit.

There are three main seasons – the hot, the wet and the cool.

Hot Season

The summer heat makes itself felt on the northern plains of India as early as February and, by April and May, the temperatures have reached up to 45°C / 113°F. The first signs of the monsoon appear in May, with high humidity, electrical storms and short rains. As the heat increases on the central plains, the weather in the high peaks of the Himalayas is at its best. By early June, the snows on even the highest and most inaccessible passes have melted.

Wet Season

The long, hard rains of the monsoon season move into southern India at the beginning of June, sweeping north to cover the entire country by the following month. The regular rains do not necessarily mean a cooler temperature and this season is often hot and humid.

Cool Season

By October the monsoon rains have eased throughout most of India. This is an exceptionally good time to visit, with comfortable temperatures – not too hot during the day and not too cold at night. Later in the year, from December and January, the northern regions of the country, including Delhi, can become crisp and cold at night. The far north experiences much colder weather, with regular snowfalls. In the far south, the temperatures remain pleasantly cool until February.

Activities

Bots wana: All year round. Best birding: Nov-March. Best botanical months: Dec-May. Peak season: July-October. Middle season: May-June.

Kenya: All year round. Great migration: June-September.

Mozambique:

Best time: winter (April-Sept). Best fishing months: summer (Oct-March)

Namibia: All year round. Best birding: summer (Nov-April). Best botanical months: Dec-May. Peak season: July-October. Middle season: May-June.

South Africa: All year round. Best game viewing (in north): winter (May-August). Southern regions: summer destination (Sept-April).

Tanzania: All year round. Best climbing Mount Kilimanjaro: Aug-Oct and Jan-March. Great migration: April-June and Oct-Dec.

Zambia: Many lodges are closed Nov-May. Victoria Falls spectacular after rains: April-May.

Zimbabwe: All year round. Best white water rafting: Aug-Dec. Best botanical months: Dec-May. Peak season: July-Oct. Middle season: May-June.

Many travelers visit East Africa to see the Serengeti's great wildebeest migration. Linked to the rainfall, this stunning migration of thousands of wildebeest – accompanied by zebra, gazelle, eland and impala follows a fairly predictable pattern, as the wildebeest are constantly seeking fresh grazing and water.

Having said that, the wildebeest migration happens all year – the migration can be found during any given month; you just need to know where to look! The question should really be about the 'best places' to see them during a given time of the year – and when visiting them is most enjoyable.

India

There is so much going on in this huge country that it would be impossible to even give a guideline of what is happening. Religious festivals abound and are often colorful and incredible to photograph. If there are specific events occurring when our guests travel we make sure to let them know and gauge interest.

WHAT IS THE TIPPING ETIQUETTE

Tipping is definitely not a requirement but a very personal choice, so here are some guidelines. These are by no means set in stone and are quite conservative, so if you feel you would like to reward service and a great experience at a higher level please do. Please feel free to chat to us about this issue.

Africa

At all the camps you will visit in Africa, you only have to tip at the very end of the stay. Please don't tip individuals in camp for carrying bags, room service etc

Tipping is not compulsory. If, however, you want to tip because you have received good service, we have enclosed a brief guideline to assist you:

Regional

Camp or Game Lodge Guides, Specialist Guides and Butlers

We recommend US\$10.00 to \$20.00 per guest per day.

Mokoro Paddlers and Trackers

We recommend that each paddler receive US\$5.00 per guest per day and that camp/lodge trackers receive US\$5.00 per guest per day.

The General Safari Camp / Lodge Staff

We recommend about US\$10.00 per guest per day for safari camps. This should be placed in the communal tipping box to be distributed equally amongst all the staff.

Porterage

We recommend about US\$2.00 to US\$3.00 per guest per movement.

Some lodges have slightly different gratuity schedules, but these are usually stipulated clearly in the camp's collateral.

South Africa

Transfer Driver

We recommend about \$10.00 per movement

Touring (excluding Camp/Game Lodge) Driver and/or Guides

For half day tours we recommend about \$5.00 per guest and for a full day tour we recommend \$10.00 per guest on shared tours

For private tours we recommend \$30.00 for half day and \$60.00 for full day

Safari Guides/Trackers at Game Lodges

We recommend about \$20.00 per guest per day for the guide and \$10.00 per guest per day for the tracker.

Porterage

We recommend about \$2.00 per guest per movement.

Hotel/Guest House/Game Lodge Staff

We recommend about \$5.00 per guest per day for hotel staff i.e. housekeeping etc

Restaurants/Hotels

10% is customary on meal accounts if you are satisfied with the service.

We would like to emphasize that tipping is definitely not a requirement but should be undertaken only by choice and dependent on service received. Whatever you believe to be appropriate will be appreciated by the staff you have met.

India

From the moment you arrive you will see that India runs on tipping, from the person who carries your bag, delivers your food or drives your vehicle. Wages are generally very low and most people in service industries make the bulk of their living by tips. For a room boy who carries your bags to the room a 10–20 Rupee tip is fine. A similar amount is OK for the boys who come and clean your room. In restaurants work on 10% and the tip will be reasonable. There is no set amount as is the case in other countries.

In the safari camps follow a similar guideline to Africa tipping guidelines.

WHAT TRAVEL DOCUMENTS DO I NEED

Africa

All people traveling to Southern Africa require a current passport that is valid for at least 6 months beyond the intended length of stay.

NOTE: The government of South Africa requires a minimum of 2 blank pages inside the passport (in addition to the 2 standard endorsement pages in U.S. passports). If you are planning to travel to multiple countries and re-enter South Africa multiple times please verify before departure that you will have more than enough pages to satisfy the requirements.

As of the writing of this document U.S. citizens are not required to obtain entry visas for the nations of South Africa, Botswana and Namibia. Visas are required for Kenya, Tanzania, Zimbabwe and Zambia. All of the required entry visas with the exception of Kenya's may be purchased at the point of entry for a nominal fee. We strongly advise you to check with the consulates of the various countries you intend to visit well in advance of departure to verify current visa requirements as they can and DO change without notice.

Please ensure that you have all necessary visas prior to departure from your home country (unless these can be obtained on arrival) as KHASHANA, OUR STAFF, THEIR AGENTS AND THEIR OPERATORS CANNOT BE HELD LIABLE IF ENTRY IS REFUSED.

We will be happy to help you with advice as to the best way to get your documentation done.

India

You will need a valid passport and visa to enter the country.

Visas cannot be issued on arrival and we recommend that you contact your local Indian embassy or consulate when planning your trip. It is also essential that your passport should be valid for at least six months from date of entry.

Australia and New Zealand

A Visa is NOT required for travel to New Zealand as long as you are staying under 90 days . However, for Australia, you will need an ETA, which is an "electronic visa".

WHAT INOCULATIONS/VACCINATIONS DO I NEED

This again is a matter of personal choice and consultation with your health professional. At time of writing the only required vaccination for the parts of Africa you are likely to visit is the Yellow Fever vaccination. (See below)

We will be happy to advise services for your inoculation requirements.

AFRICA

Yellow Fever

Already required when visiting countries like Congo, Kenya, Tanzania and others in Africa, it was communicated at the end of August 2011 for implementation from 1 October 2011, that proof of Yellow Fever inoculation is required when any visitor to Zambia returns to South Africa. This is currently not a requirement for visiting Zambia but if both Zambia and South Africa are included on the same itinerary, even if in transit on flights, you will need to have this as it is a requirement for entry into South Africa.

Time: Inoculations must be had at least 10 days before travel, as it is not effective within 10 days.

Validity: The vaccine provides immunity against the disease for 10 years. You receive a Yellow Card which you have to carry with you when you travel. Failure to produce the card during travel could result in penalties by immigration or refusal to enter the country.

People Exempt: Pregnant women, HIV Positive, anyone undergoing Chemotherapy or with a suppressed immune system. You still need to go to a clinic/medical practitioner for a consultation and to be given an exemption certificate which will still allow you to travel without having had the injection.

Babies under the age of 9 months and people over the age of 60 can qualify for an exemption also, but this is at the discretion of the medical practitioner.

INDIA

Check with your doctor — recommended vaccinations for travel to India include Hepatitis A/B and Tetanus. We do not recommend taking malaria medication — the disease is now virtually non-existent in areas tourists will visit — sadly, the same cannot be said for mosquitoes which are still widespread.

WHAT ARE THE HEALTH ISSUES I NEED TO BE AWARE OF

There are a few basic health matters that require care and attention. The following points are recommended guidelines only - please consult your doctor and also check with your health department/travel clinic prior to departure from your home country, in the event there have been changes in the health regulations of the country you are visiting.

AFRICA

Malaria

Malaria within South Africa's borders is encountered mainly in: northern and eastern Mpumalanga, northern KwaZulu-Natal, and the border areas of the Northern and North West provinces. Outside of the South African borders it is found in: the lower lying areas of Swaziland, in Mozambique, Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe, most parts of Botswana, and in northern Namibia.

Malaria prophylactic recommendations for southern African travellers:

Expert opinion differs regarding the best approach to malaria prophylaxis. It is important to bear in mind that malaria may be contracted despite chemoprophylaxis, especially in areas where chloroquine resistance has been reported. Both chloroquine-resistant and normal strains of malaria are prevalent in Africa.

Please remember that the best precaution is the preventative kind:

Avoid being bitten by using mosquito repellents liberally. Most camps provide a locally made repellent.

Wear long-sleeved shirts and trousers/slacks in the evenings.

Please use the mosquito net over your bed where supplied/available.

Where provided, please use the insecticide supplied to kill any mosquitoes that may have flown into your room.

Mosquito coils are also effective. If you are a SCUBA diver, please consult your doctor regarding the use of Larium in conjunction with diving.

Malaria is transmitted by a very small percentage of female Anopheles mosquitoes. They are mainly active in the early evening and throughout the night. Malaria transmission is at its highest during the warmer and wetter months of November through to April. From May through to October the risks of acquiring malaria are reduced. There is also less prevalence in remote areas where our camps are situated; nonetheless, you need to consider taking preventative measures.

All of the camps provide mosquito repellent in the tents and in the lounges and on game drives. The tents usually contain area sprays that can be used as well as mosquito coils which are burned to repel all types of insects. Added to this most camps have a spraying program around the camps to keep the resident population of mosquitoes almost non-existent. Remember that the best precaution against malaria is to reduce the likelihood of being bitten.

There is a six to seven day minimum incubation period before symptoms present themselves. If you become ill on your return, while still on prophylaxis or even once you have stopped taking them, ensure that your doctor does everything to establish that your illness is not malaria. Malaria can be prevented if you are sensible and take basic precautions. There have been very few cases of our guests contracting malaria in our more than 20 years of operation. It is inadvisable for pregnant woman to visit malarial areas as malaria infection during pregnancy can be detrimental to mother and child.

Again, we recommend that you check with your local physician, health department and/or the CDC for the latest information.

Yellow Fever

What is Yellow Fever?

Yellow Fever is a viral illness for which there is no cure, but there is an effective vaccine which will prevent it. It is transmitted by a day-time biting mosquito. The Yellow Fever virus is found in certain areas of Africa, Central and South America.

Yellow Fever symptoms:

The illness develops within six days of being bitten by an infected mosquito, and the onset is usually sudden: fever develops, with headache, body pains, and most often nausea.

Yellow Card

Travellers immunized against Yellow Fever are issued with an internationally recognized vaccination certificate for inspection by immigration officials. The international health regulations concerning Yellow Fever are unequivocal, and unvaccinated travellers may face denial of entry, or even quarantine in certain circumstances. This strict control is maintained to ensure that both the individual traveller and the broader communities are protected against outbreaks of this disease.

Tsetse Flies

Tsetse flies occur in large areas of sub-Saharan Africa including parts of northern Botswana and Zambia and throughout the safari areas of Kenya and Tanzania.

They are best known as the carrier of trypanosomiasis – causing sleeping sickness in humans which can be fatal but is easily treated and cured. Not all Tsetse flies transmit all variations of the disease and they are regarded more as an irritation (the bites are sharp) than as a serious threat. The World Health Organisation (WHO) reports that very few cases of sleeping sickness have been reported in Zambia since 2005 and none in Botswana from where it has long been absent.

The disease is easily treated with modern medicine and in the unlikely event that symptoms are recorded after a visit to an area containing Tsetse flies we recommend that a doctor be consulted. These symptoms can present a few weeks to months after a visit and begin with fever, headaches and pains in the joints followed by dramatic swelling of the lymph nodes.

What precautions can I take against tsetse fly bites?

The most important precaution is to be aware of tsetse flies and what they look like. While on game drive or walks, being aware that they occur in wooded areas rather than out in grasslands or on the plains can help with when to be vigilant against tsetse flies. Generally brushing the flies off your body once they have landed there is enough to prevent getting bitten.

What clothing should I wear to avoid attracting tsetse flies?

Dark coloured clothing is generally more attractive to tsetse flies since the majority of their host species are dark coloured large mammals such as buffalo. Wearing long-sleeved neutral coloured clothing is probably the best approach. It is possible for the flies to bite through light clothing and some people do wear heavy fabrics to avoid this.

Infected tsetse bites can be treated by simply applying an antihistamine cream to the bite area. This will ease the itch which is commonly associated with insect bites of this nature. Allergic reactions are not at all common and should this occur, it can be treated with any antihistamine tablets available off the shelf.

Ticks

Ticks occur the world over and are well known ecto-parasites. The most obvious species in the savannah regions of Africa are the 'hard ticks' which attach themselves to their hosts to feed before they either fall or are brushed off. Ticks are also well known as carriers of diseases that affect both animals and humans, and in southern Africa this is referred to as tick bite fever. Symptoms of this disease present after a 5 to 7 day incubation period and include fevers, headaches, malaise and even a skin rash, but effects can vary dramatically from person to person. A dark black mark usually results at the site of the infected bite and is a helpful diagnostic. The disease is easily treated with antibiotics although this is not always necessary. After walking in the bush with your guide it is best to brush your clothes down and to examine your body for ticks, taking care to remove these entirely without leaving the biting mouth parts behind in your skin. Anti-tick sprays such as Bayticol can be very effective against ticks and wearing long pants will prevent many bites.

IS THE WATER SAFE TO DRINK

Some parts of Africa do have problems with their water supplies, however Southern Africa is typically much safer for visitors in this regard than the rest of the continent. You will be supplied with safe materials in ALL of the safari camps and hotels which you travel to such as bottled or filtered water. A lot of the camps have green initiatives and try to reduce plastic usage so you will be issued with your own aluminium drinking bottle that will be filled regularly with filtered water as well as jugs of water in your rooms. Your most important concern, especially during the hot summer months, is to remain hydrated. Drink plenty of fresh water regularly and in quantity throughout the day.

IS THE TAP WATER SAFE TO DRINK IN INDIA

It is best to avoid drinking tap water while in India. When buying bottled water check that the cap has not been tampered with.

WHAT IS THE FOOD LIKE

Africa

Throughout Africa there is a vast array of different foods to choose from - ranging from highly sophisticated gourmet to delicious street food. We would recommend staying away from some of the more adventurous eating experiences in remote areas. At all the camps and hotels we use there is a large choice of foods served at each meal, and if you have any dietary requirements we will alert the place you are visiting ahead of time so that they can cater to you. Cape Town has some of the best restaurants in the world, and the wine regions are a hotbed of new and wonderful cuisine experiences.

INDIA

Indian cuisine is varied, with styles varying from region to region. India has more vegetarians than the rest of the world combined, however, goat, lamb and chicken appear in many dishes. Should you tire of local cuisine, restaurants in India also offer food from other part of the world. You should be able to find French, English, Italian, Thai, Mexican, Chinese and Japanese food in hotels and restaurants in the larger cities.

Is all Indian food very spicy?

No. India is justly famous for some of the world's best food and here you can enjoy it in all its glory. Food hygiene standards in hotels and resorts are now near world class and a few sensible precautions will minimize any chance of getting sick. As you travel around you can safely eat at small local restaurants along the way. If you wish to eat Chinese or Continental style cuisine, this is available at mid range to deluxe hotels throughout the country.

Staying healthy in India is really just a matter of common sense. Some people may find that their body takes a few days to adjust to the different foods but generally if you observe a few simple rules like only drinking bottled water and eating freshly cooked foods you will probably find that after a short time in India you feel better than you have in years!

WHAT DO I NEED TO PACK

We have specific packing lists for each region visited that we will be happy to share with you.

Africa

As a general guide, comfortable, casual wash and wear clothes are recommended. Please note that muted colours are recommended for game-viewing. Game-drives are conducted in the early morning and late afternoon, which can be very cold, especially in winter.

The most practical items to pack for safari are:

- Khaki, green, beige and neutral colours
- Shirts with long sleeves (even in summer, as protection from the sun and mosquitoes)
- T shirts
- Shorts or a light skirt
- Jeans or safari trousers for evenings and cooler days
- A jacket and sweater are recommended for early morning and evening game drives
- Lightweight water-proof jacket
- Swim and beachwear
- Comfortable walking shoes
- Sun block, sunglasses, hat, insect repellent, moisturizer and lip-salve are all essentials
- Binoculars and camera equipment
- Good quality safari clothing is available in safari shops

India

Many people prefer to shop for clothes in India as they like to adopt a more local way of dressing and clothes can be purchased very cheaply. However, cities such as Mumbai and Delhi are fast becoming very westernized and you'll see people wearing jeans and t-shirts. In smaller cities and villages, people still dress conservatively. The most important rule for both ladies and men is to keep your legs and shoulders covered. Wearing shorts should be avoided. Females will also often find it beneficial to wear a shawl or scarf that covers their breasts. For men, short-sleeved shirts are more respectful than wearing t-shirts.

When visiting temples or other religious places you may be required to cover your head and take off your shoes. You may not be allowed to enter some temples if you are wearing or carrying any leather articles. Certain temples only admit Hindus. If you are in doubt, ask about the place you intend visiting.

Australia and new Zealand

Again these areas are very casual and there are very few itineraries that will require any sort of formal dress unless you are attending an Opera in Sydney or some other formal function.

Depending on your itinerary you will need a lot of casual beachwear, athletic wear and some safari/ fishing type gear

WHAT IF ANY ARE THE LUGGAGE LIMITATIONS

Scheduled airlines in southern Africa generally carry a weight restriction of 20kg (44lbs) per economy class traveller, and 30kg (66lbs) for business class. Please ensure that you comply with the applicable restrictions – further details regarding number of luggage pieces and exact dimensions for a particular carrier can be obtained from your ticketing agent.

Please note when combining scheduled airline flights and air transfers (as specified below), then the smaller restriction of the two will apply unless alternative arrangements have been made for the storage or separate transfer of excess luggage.

It is very important that you do not put anything of high value (personal or financial value) in your checked in baggage as luggage can be tampered with and valuables removed. This includes, but is not limited to, jewellery, cameras, video equipment, reading glasses, sunglasses, laptops, or other computer/electronic equipment, medication (especially chronic medication), etc. Please also lock your luggage with a suitable lock to deter opportunistic theft. In the event of your luggage being delayed or going missing, we would like to recommend that you pack a change of underwear, a clean T-shirt or similar, plus essential toiletries and medication into your carry-on/ hand luggage to minimize the inconvenience experienced by this loss or delay.

LUGGAGE ON AIR TRANSFERS

There are strict weight restrictions in place on any itinerary which includes light aircraft transfers for the following reasons:

The aircraft are designed with a maximum bodyweight and luggage weight allowance.

The aircraft have physical space restrictions.

Some important issues must please be noted for air transfers with some of our operators

Luggage, including camera equipment and hand luggage, is restricted per person travelling on seat rates, as follows:

20kg (44lbs) in Botswana, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe

20kg (44lbs) in South Africa

Only soft bags will be accepted -

The maximum dimensions of the soft bags which can be accommodated are as follows: 25cm (10 inches) wide x 30cm (12 inches) high and 62cm (24 inches) long.

Please keep in mind that the baggage compartments on the light aircraft are only 25cm high (10 inches), so the pilots must have the ability to manipulate the bag into the compartment.

These limits are applicable to guests traveling on a seat rate basis so may differ if guests have booked on a sole use or private charter option in which case the maximum's depend on the type of aircraft and the number of passengers booked.

These luggage restrictions appear minimal, however, please bear in mind the following:

Most safari camps/lodges and hotels provide basic toilet amenities.

Laundry can be done on a daily basis (many camps provide this service free of charge but some camps and hotels do charge a nominal fee).

Mainly casual clothing is required

WHAT IS THE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY

Africa

220/240 volts AC, 50Hz. Plugs are UK-type round 2-pin or flat 3-pin. Major hotels and some game lodges will supply adaptors on request. Bayonet light sockets exist in Kenya.

Electricity in east and southern Africa (Botswana, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe) is 220/240 volts. Most safari lodges and camps are not connected to a mains electrical supply. Solar lighting (backed up by batteries) is common, with many lodges having a generator which runs part of the day (morning and late evening while guests are partaking in activities). Lanterns also provide light at night. In most areas you will not be able to use a hairdryer or electric shaver.

Will I be able to recharge my camera and video camera batteries? Yes – at nearly all hotels, lodges, and permanent tented camps you will be able to recharge your camera and video batteries either in room or in the main area. Many camps and lodges have the correct adapter plugs however we recommend that you bring your own plugs – plugs C and H for east and southern Africa. Please make sure your electronic equipment switches automatically from 110 to 220 electricity (most do - it will say on the plug or in the manual)

WHAT ARE THE COMMUNICATIONS LIKE, CAN I USE MY CELL PHONE

Tri-band and quad-band cell phones work in most major African cities and towns however you must check to ensure your service provider has an agreement with the local provider. Also check rates as these can be up to US \$3 per minute. Cell phones do not work at most safari lodges and camps in Africa as there are no cell phone towers. There are some exceptions such as Kruger National Park in South Africa and the Masai Mara in Kenya where there are cell phone towers. Satellite phones may be rented and are a great option for travelers who must stay connected. Keep in mind most lodges and camps require guests to keep satellite phones turned off and use them only for outgoing calls so as not to disturb other guests. Also keep in the high per minute call rates.

South Africa has 4 world class mobile phone operators, namely Vodacom- the biggest and most popular – MTN, Cell C and Virgin Mobile. Sim cards can be purchased almost anywhere and can be as little as R3. Pay-as-you-go airtime is recommended for tourists.

We recommend you contact your cell service provider to see about plans and costs if you plan to use your cell phone while traveling. Also, check to see if you will have coverage in South Africa.

IS THERE INTERNET ACCESS

Internet access is available at most large city hotels, typically for a small fee. The majority of safari lodges and camps do not have internet access (but some do). More and more camps have wifi networks so you can connect, but please always be courteous and aware of other guests when doing so. It is best to use your wireless devices in the privacy of your room.

WHAT IS A TYPICAL DAY ON SAFARI

AFRICA

A typical day on safari

Below is a suggestion as to what may happen in camp whilst on safari. Activities as well as times involved will obviously differ from camp to camp. This is purely a guideline:

Summer/Winter

05h00 - 06h00

Wake up call. Light continental breakfast consisting of cereals, tea/coffee/juices to be served in the dining area.

05h30 - 06h30

Depart on morning activity, returning to camp at approximately 10h00.

10h00 - 11h00 - Brunch will be served, this will consist of a selection of breakfast and lunch dishes.

From now until afternoon tea, guests are at leisure.

16h00 - 15h00

Afternoon tea is served - this consists of a selection of sweet and savory snacks.

16h30 - 15h30

Depart on afternoon game viewing activity - drinks and snacks will be served for sundowners during the course of the activity.

19h30/19h00

Return to camp after dark so guests have a night drive (but could be later if there are good game sightings). (where night drives are available)

20h00 - 19h30

Pre-dinner drinks and snacks are served at the pub.

20h30- 20h00

Three course dinner, generally speaking the starter and desert is served, whilst the main course is buffet style.

21h30 - 21h00

Coffee and liqueurs will be served at the camp fire.

INDIA

A very similar schedule to Africa but because drives are in National Parks you will be back in camp before or just after nightfall.

WHAT CURRENCY WILL I NEED

In all regions the U.S. dollar and credit cards are well accepted. Australia/New Zealand may be the only region worth getting currency for before you head there, but it is very easy to exchange currency once you get there.

WHAT KIND OF INSURANCE DO I NEED

It is a condition of booking that the sole responsibility lies with the guest to ensure that they carry the correct comprehensive travel and medical insurance to cover themselves, as well as any dependants/travelling companions for the duration of their trip.

This insurance should include coverage in respect of, but not limited to, the following eventualities: cancellation or curtailment of your trip, emergency evacuation expenses, medical expenses, repatriation expenses, and damage/theft/loss of personal baggage, money and goods.