

Your guide to

Southern Africa

Botswana - Namibia - South Africa - Zimbabwe - Zambia - Mozambique





01

Important Documents

Passports | Visas | Inoculation Certificates | COVID-19

Passports

- + A valid, **machine-readable passport** issued by the country of which you are a citizen is mandatory for all international travel. This includes travelers under the age of 18.
- + For most Southern Africa destinations, passports must be **valid for at least six months after your return date**. However, if you are visiting South Africa your passport should be valid for at least 30 days beyond your intended date of exit.
- + Your passport must contain at least **two consecutive blank pages for the visas and entry stamps for each country you are visiting** i.e. if you are visiting three countries on your trip, your passport must have six consecutive blank pages. **Mozambique requires three consecutive blank pages** for the visas and entry stamps. Please note that airlines may refuse to board you or immigration officials to process you should your passport have insufficient blank pages.



- + Make a **physical copy** of your passport and keep it in a safe place, and make a digital copy that you can access from your email address in case of emergency.

Visas

- + Foreigners from most Commonwealth and European Union countries, as well as the United States, are not required to obtain visas coming to Southern Africa, except in cases directed otherwise. We advise that you **speak to your local embassy about all visa requirements.**
- + The Mozambique tourist visa policy dictates that most foreign visitors taking a holiday in the country need a visa. Travelers can **apply for either a single-entry or multiple entry tourist visa.** Both options allow tourists to stay for up to 30 days per visit.
- + When traveling to Zimbabwe or Zambia, travelers can acquire a visa at the border. We recommend purchasing a KAZA Uni-Visa allowing unlimited entry to both countries for 30 days.

Inoculation certificates

- + All passengers to Southern Africa require yellow fever inoculation certificates if they have visited ANY of the following countries in the Americas and Africa:
 - Angola
 - Argentina
 - Benin
 - Bolivia
 - Brazil
 - Burkina Faso
 - Burundi
 - Cameroon
 - Central African Republic
 - Chad
 - Colombia
 - Congo
 - Côte d'Ivoire
 - DRC
 - Ecuador
 - Equatorial Guinea
 - Ethiopia
 - French Guiana
 - Gabon
 - Gambia
 - Ghana
 - Guinea
 - Guyana
 - Kenya
 - Liberia
 - Mali
 - Mauritania
 - Niger
 - Nigeria
 - Panama
 - Paraguay
 - Peru
 - Senegal
 - Sierra Leone
 - Sudan
 - Suriname
 - Togo
 - Trinidad and Tobago
 - Uganda
 - Venezuela



- + Click [here](#) for up to date endemic countries.
- + Yellow fever vaccination certificates must be produced for all travelers over the age of one year and are valid for 10 years. Failure to produce a valid yellow fever vaccination certificate at a port of entry could lead to refusal of entry, or quarantine for up to six days until the traveler's certificate becomes valid. We recommend that you schedule your vaccine at least 6 weeks before traveling.
- + Ensure that your regular vaccinations – such as tetanus, influenza and MMR – are up to date.

Travel restrictions due to COVID-19

- + Please note, it is highly recommended that you regularly check government and airline websites for any Africa travel restrictions and updates as the requirements are constantly changing.
- + See [updated Africa Travel Restrictions due to Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#).

Other

- + For South Africa, adults traveling with minors under the age of 18 are required to show the **child's birth certificate which shows the details of both parents**. If the child is traveling with one parent, it is also necessary to present a parental consent affidavit signed by the other parent.

Please note: We have made an effort to ensure that the information listed was correct at the time of publication. However, we do not assume any liability caused by errors such as price changes. Please make sure to ask your consultant or embassy about your visa requirements in advance.



02

Health Tips

Malaria | Yellow Fever | COVID-19 | General Health

Photo credit | Singita Sweni Lodge, South Africa

Malaria

- + Most parts of Southern Africa are considered Malaria areas as they are usually tropical and subtropical areas. We advise you to consult with your physician about Malaria prophylactics before traveling to any of these areas. See [list of countries](#) where malaria occurs.

Please note that scuba diving after your trip might affect the type of antimalarial you may be prescribed.

Some general tips to reduce the risk of malaria while traveling:

- + Sleep under the **mosquito net** provided in your room.
- + Make use of the **insect repellent** provided in your room and lightly spray your body and room before going out on safari.
- + Wear lightweight **long trousers and closed shoes** while on safari.



Yellow Fever

- + There is **no risk of yellow fever in Southern Africa**. However, it is important to note that other countries might require you to have proof of yellow fever vaccination if you have traveled there directly from East African countries. Consult your travel doctor to see if you will require the yellow fever vaccination for further travel.

COVID-19

- + Travelers are expected to adhere to **protective safety measures** such as hand hygiene, wearing masks and keeping physical distancing as deemed appropriate.

General Health Tips

- + **Avoid wearing dark colours**, such as blue and black, in Tanzania. These colours attract the Tsetse fly, which can be a threat to your health if you get a sting.
- + Always apply **high SPF sunscreen** regularly and wear a sun hat.
- + **Drink plenty of water**, avoid excessive alcohol and seek medical assistance if you feel shaky, nauseous or clammy after a day in the sun, as you may be suffering from sunstroke.
- + It is advisable **not to drink tap water** in remote areas.



03

Tipping Guide

Tipping | Charity

Tipping

- + We would like to stress that tipping is **not compulsory** and at your own discretion. These are guidelines only and you can tip based on your experience at the camp.
- + It is helpful to have a **small supply of low-denomination notes** in the local currency handy, but staff are generally also very happy to receive US Dollars, Euros or Pounds Sterling.
- + You can either hand over the tip directly to the person or through a staff tip box - whichever you feel most comfortable with.



How much to tip

- + The following are **guidelines** only — please feel free to increase or decrease your tip according to the level of service that was provided to you. Should you wish to express your gratitude, please see the guidelines below.

Botswana, South Africa, Zambia, Zimbabwe & Namibia:

Local Guide	Ranger / Guides / Trackers	Transfers	Lodge Staff
<p>\$3 / ZAR50 per person</p> <p>Full day tour: \$7 / ZAR115 per person</p>	<p>Ranger / Guide: \$20 / ZAR320 per couple per day</p> <p>Tracker: \$10 / ZAR160 per couple per day</p> <p>Mokoro Paddlers: \$5 / ZAR80 per guest per day</p>	<p>\$2 / ZAR30 per person per transfer</p> <p>If they have helped with your luggage or the transfer is a far distance, consider increasing the tip</p>	<p>\$10 / ZAR160 per couple per day</p>
Restaurants	Bar	Hotels	Petrol Stations
<p>10% of the total bill for good service or 15% for exceptional service.</p> <p>*If you are a group of 8+, some restaurants will automatically add a service fee.</p>	<p>It is customary to tip bar staff about \$1 / ZAR15 a time directly from the bar.</p> <p>You can add a 10% service fee if you are running a tab.</p>	<p>Wait staff in hotels expect the same as those in restaurants.</p> <p>For bellhops or porters, consider \$2 / ZAR 30 per guest.</p>	<p>Petrol attendants will refuel your tank. Please do not refuel your own tank.</p> <p>Tip between ZAR5 - ZAR10 for having your tank filled.</p>

*Please note: Due to ongoing rate fluctuations, it's best to check the current ROE [here](#).



Charity in Africa

- + When it comes to Charity, many visitors to Africa feel a strong urge to help the less fortunate whom they encounter on safari, or when visiting a local village or school. People often ask what they can take, especially for the children. Travelers should be encouraged to **connect with the people, culture and spirit of the destination and give back.**
- + To contribute in a way that helps a person (or community) help themselves will enhance their way of life, find a project or **organisation that you are passionate about** and make a donation towards that specific project rather than encouraging dependency on 'hand-outs' and generosity.
- + Please **refrain from giving money to beggars.** Most camps and lodges have their own charity organisation they work with in the local communities.

Leave your Legacy

- + Our [Legacy Program](#) has evolved into collaborations with many local initiatives. If you would like to donate, and leave your legacy in Africa, please [get in touch here.](#)



04

Photography + Gadgets

Lenses + gear | Binoculars | Other

Photography

- + Bring **sufficient memory cards** and batteries as these are not always readily available.
- + The **use of drones is not allowed** in any of the conservation areas, as they have an impact on wildlife and anti-poaching initiatives. This rule applies throughout Africa.
- + Always **ask before taking photographs of people** and respect their wishes if they decline. They may be happy to pose in return for cash – it is up to you whether to go ahead.
- + Do not photograph or fly a drone at airports, borders, government buildings, security personnel, immigration officials, army or navy installations.



Cameras and lenses

- + We strongly recommend that you bring a **high-resolution camera** with you. Cameras with 8 megapixels of resolution and higher are capable of capturing high-quality A4 size images. If you would like to go a few steps beyond this, you could invest in a telephoto lens. This will allow you to capture wildlife encounters in more depth.
- + **Don't forget a tripod**, or alternatively a beanbag to stabilize your shots, especially when you are using a zoom lens. Although a tripod will be of no use during safari game drives, you will see animals at the waterholes around the camps. If you are an avid photographer, you can request a lodge that specializes in this and your travel expert can book a suitable lodge for you.
- + It is recommended to **bring extra batteries, a battery charger and a lens cleaner** to avoid disappointment on a day filled with great wildlife sightings. Nothing is more disheartening than a camera with flat batteries.

Binoculars

- + An **eye relief feature** on the binoculars is very important as you will be spending a lot of time on your safari looking through your binoculars. We recommend something that is comfortable especially if you wear spectacles or sunglasses.
- + For spotting wildlife in the early morning and at dusk, we recommend a pair of binoculars with a **large outer diameter and a decent exit pupil size** to collect a lot of light in low light conditions.
- + Apart from durability, **weight is another important aspect** which is often overlooked when shopping for binoculars. Apart from personal comfort, this aspect may also affect your luggage restrictions.



Recommended specs:

Magnification	8 x 42
Field of view	At least 330 ft. at 1000 yards
Exit pupil size	5.25mm or more
Prism and coating	BAK-4 prism and fully-multi-coated surfaces
Weight	Not more than 30.1 oz. lbs
Eye relief	18 or more
Weather proof	Fog, waterproof, submersible



05

Light Aircraft Guidelines



Passenger weight | Luggage guidelines

Passenger Guidelines

- + If you weigh more than 220 lbs. (100 kg)*, please advise your consultant.

*Airlines are strict with their weight allowances and will charge extra per person with body weight over 220-264 lbs (100-120 kg).

Luggage Guidelines

- + There is a weight restriction on all light aircrafts used for inter-camp / intra-Africa flights. The weight limit is 15 - 20 kg (44 lbs) per person and the airlines are very strict.
- + Should your luggage exceed the limitations, storage facilities are offered at most airports on a return flight basis until the end of your safari trip.



Light Aircraft Guidelines

- + Light Aircraft operators only accept a **soft-sided, flexible bag** similar to the duffel bag shown below.
- + Dimensions:
W: 25cm (10 inches) wide x H: 30cm (12 inches) high x L: 62cm (24 inches) long



- + The **total weight allowance includes the carry-on bags**. There is no under-seat storage or overhead lockers for stowing bags, so any carry-on bags will be on laps for the duration of the flight.



06

Responsible Travel

On safari | General tips

On Safari

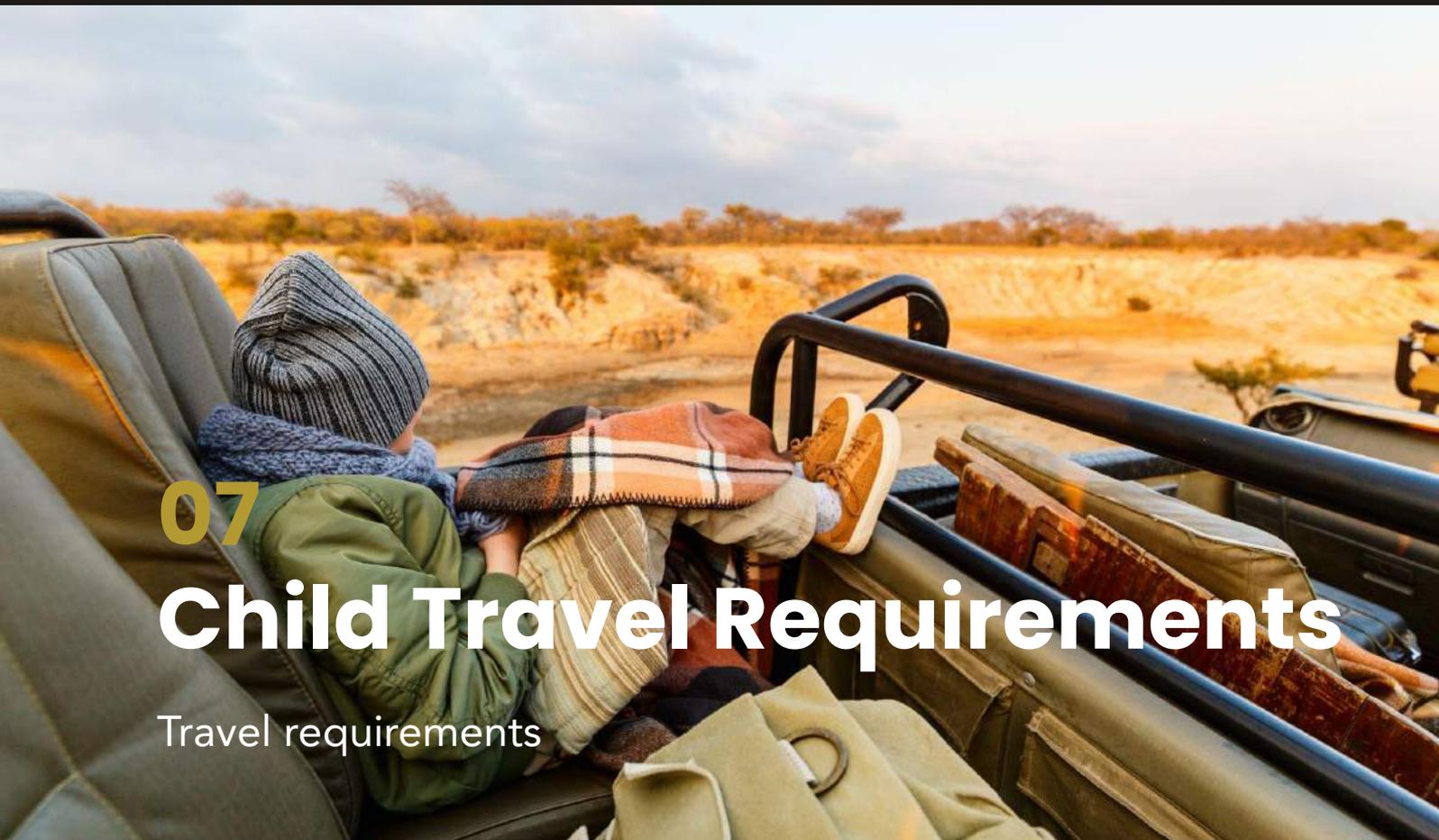
- + **Disable the GPS function on your social media** and other apps when uploading images of wildlife. Poaching syndicates use online and digital information to track highly endangered rhinos. Think twice before you make these images publicly available and consider who you are tagging.
- + Always **obey your guide's instructions**. No matter how 'tame' animals may seem, they are still wild and unpredictable. Do not attempt to entice them with food, imitate animal sounds, clap your hands or pound the vehicle to get their attention, or tease them to provoke a reaction. If an attack does occur, you may be far away from significant medical attention so always be wary of animals and act cautiously.
- + Do not ask your guide to drive closer to wildlife, especially to babies or kills, in order to get a better view. Mothers and their young are skittish and you could frighten off hungry predators from a much-needed meal.



- + Smoking, eating, drinking, or singing on game drives is not permitted. Ask your guide questions or tell him or her if you would like to stop for a while longer.
- + Leave natural items in national parks or game reserves, including plants, fungi, rocks, or animal products. It is illegal to procure ivory or rhino horn.
- + Wildlife interactions are not allowed.
- + Guides are well trained in safari best practices and should not be pressured by travelers to act unethically.

General

- + Southern Africa is an arid country and **freshwater is scarce in some areas** like Namibia or the Kalahari Desert.. Take shorter showers, do not fill the bathtub, and switch off the tap while brushing your teeth or shaving – at all times avoid letting the water run unnecessarily.
- + In markets, **be fair to the seller** and remember that a small amount of extra money to you may be a substantial portion of the seller's daily income, which has to cover transport, stock, and food.
- + Respect local customs and traditions.
- + Good to know: **plastic carrier bags and flat plastic bags are banned in Botswana** to reduce the use of plastic in support of the conservation of Botswana's wildlife and environment. The use of plastic bags will be an offense punishable with a fine of ± \$500. If you are traveling to Botswana, please use alternative storage for your items to avoid this fine.
- + Read more about responsible travel to Africa [here](#).



07

Child Travel Requirements

Travel requirements

Travel Requirements

- + Children under the age of 18 will require an **unabridged birth certificate*** together with a valid passport when travelling abroad.
- + Foreign nationals are advised to apply for unabridged birth certificates in good time in order to avoid possible delays to travel plans.

*Unabridged is a birth certificate reflecting both parents' details.



Child and both parents



Parents must produce an unabridged birth certificate and a valid passport.

Child and one parent



Parents must produce an unabridged birth certificate, a valid passport, and a court order/ death certificate/ affidavit confirming that the parents have permitted the child to travel.

Child and guardian



Guardian must produce an unabridged birth certificate, a valid passport, and a court order/death certificate/affidavit confirming the parents have permitted the child to travel.

Child unaccompanied



The child must produce an unabridged birth certificate and a valid passport and a court order/ death certificate/ affidavit confirming permission to travel from both parents or legal guardians. A letter from the person who will receive the child including their full contact details and a certified copy of their ID/Passport must be produced.



08

Packing Guide

General Checklist

Travel Documents

- Passport + correct visas
- Any vaccination certificates required
- Emergency phone numbers
- Phone card + international access numbers
- African travel insurance policy with emergency evacuation
- Extra passport photos
- Negative PCR test certificate if required
- Copy of bank cards and international access numbers
- A copy of your itinerary



- Copy of prescribed medicines
- Copy of passport + visas + air ticket + ID document

Gadgets

- Binoculars
- Camera equipment
- Camera lenses
- Extra batteries for camera
- Battery charger
- Tripod/beanbag
- Small flashlight/headlamp
- Portable charging station

Accoutrements

- Personal toiletries
- Malaria tablets
- Sunscreen + lip balm with SPF 30+
- Moisturizer
- Antihistamine cream
- Insect repellent
- Tissues/ pre-moistened wipes
- Basic first aid kit: aspirin, bandages, antidiarrhoeal, antiseptic cream



Extras

- Credit cards + cash in small denominations for tipping
- Notepad + pen
- A laundry bag
- Ziplock bags to keep documents dry and protect electronics from dust and water
- Face mask

Any questions?

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