



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)

1. IS IT SAFE?

It is extremely rare that any of our travellers have any problems, and while it is worth being aware, it is not necessary to overly worry about safety issues.

All of our itineraries are designed around keeping you in safe locations, and making sure you are guided through the right areas.

In wildlife areas, animals roam free and can often be found within a camp or lodge perimeter. You will always be given a safety briefing at each camp, and it is important that you listen to, and follow, the instructions given to you.

As is the case anywhere in the world, tourists can be targeted by petty criminals, therefore be careful with things like cameras, jewellery and day packs.

2. PASSPORT & VISA INFORMATION?

The visa information below applies to Australian passport holders. If you are travelling on another passport, please double check the visa requirements with us. Visa requirements are always changing with little notice. Always check a few weeks before leaving. We also will keep an eye out for any changes and let you know as soon as possible

For all travellers, ensure that your passports are valid for more than 6 months from the end date of your trip, and also ensure you have at least 2 blank pages per country you are visiting.

The specific country requirements currently are as follows:

South Africa: no visa required, however children under 18 years old may need extra documentation. Please ask us for more details on travelling with children under 18.

Namibia: As of March 2025, Australian passport holders now require visas for Namibia. While visas are available on arrival (but only at major entry points), it is recommended to apply online in advance at <https://eservices.mhaiss.gov.na/visaonarrival>. We have prepared a guide to assist you with navigating the on-line visa process and a copy will be supplied to you once you are signed up for this safari. Children under 18 years old may need extra documentation. Please ask us for more details on travelling with children under 18.

Botswana: no visa required, however children under 18 years old may need extra documentation. Please ask us for more details on travelling with children under 18.

Zimbabwe: RAW does not currently offer safaris to Zimbabwe but some may wish to add a visit to Victoria Falls to their safari. Visas can be bought on arrival currently at a cost of US\$30 per person for a single entry or US\$45 per person for a double entry, payable in US dollars cash – make sure you have cash on you.

Zambia: no visa required, however children under 18 years old may need extra documentation. Please ask us for more details on travelling with children under 18.

3. DO I NEED ANY VACCINATIONS OR OTHER HEALTH PRECAUTIONS?

Please refer to your medical practitioner for guidance on your specific needs. You should obtain specific travel health advice in relation to your individual needs and your intended travel, including advice on vaccinations, anti-malarial and other medications based on your past vaccination history, your present medical conditions and your intended itinerary.

For any mandatory vaccinations required for entry into a specific country please see updated information on <https://www.travelvax.com.au/> or <https://www.smarttraveller.gov.au/>

4. DO I NEED TRAVEL INSURANCE?

Yes, we highly recommend that you are adequately insured for the full duration of your trip and we suggest you purchase insurance at the time you pay your deposit. Real African Wilderness will not accept responsibility for loss of deposit or full payment, loss or damage to baggage and personal items including camera equipment, personal injury and illness, medical expenses and/or cancellation of your trip due to circumstances beyond our control.

5. WHAT CURRENCY SHOULD I TAKE?

Except for South Africa and Namibia (where Rands are used), US Dollars are the best cash currency to take with you. They can be used as tender in most areas, and can be changed easily into local currency.

Please ensure your US Dollar notes are as new as possible, and definitely printed after 2008.
Take small denominations as getting change can sometimes be a problem.

Local currency can be drawn from local ATM's, however be prepared that your card may not work, or no ATM's may be available where you are travelling to, so do not rely on getting cash this way (the exception here is South Africa and Namibia, where ATM's are widely available, and are generally reliable).

It can be worth exchanging small amounts of US Dollars into local currency along the way, for smaller purchases, such as snacks, souvenirs and drinks. However, do not change too much as you will lose out on the exchange rate when changing it back at the end of your trip, and once you are home you will

most likely not be able to change it back into Australian Dollars.

Please remember to inform your bank that you are travelling to Africa, and make sure you have a 24 hour contact number for them. It is has been known for banks to stop your debit or credit card as soon as they see it being used in Africa.

6. CAN I USE A CREDIT CARD?

Yes, credit cards are accepted in most locations and lodges, except for some of the more remote tented camps. Be prepared that there may be a surcharge charged by some merchants, especially for American Express cards.

Please advise your bank before you leave that you will be using your card in Africa and make sure to have a 24-hour contact number for them.

7. WHAT WILL I NEED TO PAY FOR?

Although each itinerary differs, generally all of the itineraries we arrange include all of your accommodation, park entry, fuel and most of your meals. Drinks are not included (other than tea and coffee) but you will get opportunities to purchase these at various points. Bottled drinking water is highly recommended so you need to allow for this. Inclusions and exclusions will be clearly shown on your itinerary document.

You will need cash for tips, snacks, drinks, souvenirs, and extra activities. Most extra activities and bills at lodges can be paid using credit cards as well.

8. WHAT DO MEALS / DRINKS COST?

Where a meal is not included in an itinerary, budget AS\$30 - AS\$60 per meal for a dinner.

Soft drinks cost between A\$2 -\$3 in serviced location. Alcohol is readily available and varies in price but is generally cheaper than Australia. Wine selection can be limited. There is sufficient storage on board for your drink supplies.

9. WHAT TYPE OF VEHICLES ARE USED ON SAFARI?

We use the following vehicles on our safaris.

- Dual cab 4x4 (typically 4 persons sharing) fitted with roof top tents and a canopy for your personal belongings. The vehicle is fully equipped for the safari. These require a designated

driver and at least one of the group of 4 will be responsible for the vehicle. The vehicle is fully insured with a ZERO excess in the case of a collision or damage.

- All drivers MUST have a valid Australian drivers license. There is no need for an International license but we will keep an eye on the requirement as it may be subject to change.
- Extended 4x4 safari vehicles seating up to 11 people on selected routes only. This vehicle will be driven by a designated driver only and provide passengers with a great game viewing option, large windows and ample storage for personal belongings.

10. HOW ROUGH ARE THE ROADS ON SAFARI?

Road quality and conditions vary substantially. You will travel on sealed roads one day and deep sand the next. This all adds to the African experience and getting bogged or flat tyres are part of the adventure.

11. WHAT DOES A TYPICAL DAY ON SAFARI LOOK LIKE?

A day on safari, when in Wildlife areas, typically begins around dawn with tea/coffee/hot chocolate and a light snack, followed by an early game drive (2-3hours). The early morning is the best time to witness wildlife stirring to life. You are lead on this drive by your guides who interpret fresh animal tracks/scats and assist with sightings/identification of predators, herbivores and birdlife.

Return to the camp for a hearty breakfast/brunch and midday relaxation, which may include lounging by the pool, a siesta, or reading a book. African wildlife loves a midday siesta and so do we! In the afternoon another game drive during the golden hour, offering stunning photographic opportunities as animals emerge from their daytime rest. As the sun sets, pause for sundowner drinks before heading back to the camp. A typical day on safari concludes with a scrumptious fireside dinner, a drink or two and some socialising.

12. WHAT SHOULD I TAKE ON SAFARI?

Aside from a camera, binoculars, an open mind and comfortable clothes, there is no need to take any specialist clothing or equipment on your safari. Comfortable clothes in neutral colours that you can put on in layers are a great idea. Clothes washing facilities are not often available so be prepared to do some hand washing in between.

Ensure you have ample spare batteries and charging cables for phone, cameras, etc.

We do provide a list of suggested items to pack when we send you the full itinerary

13. WHEN SHOULD I START PLANNING?

In a nutshell: the sooner the better. Africa is a very popular destination and popular camps book out quickly. The earlier you start planning, the wider your choice of safari accommodation will be. Booking 9-12 months in advance is ideal, especially if you want to travel during school holidays. If you're travelling as part of a larger group of family and friends, we definitely recommend allowing at least 12 months.

14. HOW MANY COUNTRIES SHOULD I AIM TO VISIT?

We believe in quality over quantity. You'll have a much better experience if you focus on one or two countries, rather than trying to cram multiple places into one trip. Otherwise, you'll end up spending all of your time getting from A to B, rather than enjoying things on the ground.

15. HOW SAFE ARE WE FROM WILD ANIMALS IF WE SLEEP IN A TENT OR GO OUT IN OPEN-SIDED VEHICLES?

Most animals are wary of the sight and smell of humans and will flee rather than attack, but you should never attempt to approach animals yourself unless you are being escorted by an experienced guide.

Wildlife can wander close to camps and lodges and pass through the camp after dark since they are typically unfenced, but every measure is in place to ensure guest safety. For example, in unfenced camps, guests should exercise caution around camp after dark.

Sleeping under canvas in a tent in the wilds of Africa, surrounded by the sounds of the African bush is a memorable experience. We will always ensure the camp is set up and arranged to ensure your safety.

16. WHEN IS THE BEST TIME TO GO ON SAFARI?

Southern Africa (Zambia, Botswana, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Namibia): Best during the dry season, roughly **May–October**. Weather is pleasant, roads are good, and wildlife viewing is excellent.