

WELCOME TO

RAW
REAL AFRICAN
WILDERNESS

NEWSLETTER

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PERSONALISED, UNIQUE SAFARI ADVENTURES ACROSS SOUTHERN AFRICA

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FAQ – What is a typical day like on a RAW Safari

We are often asked what a typical day on safari with us looks like. Every day brings its own surprises, but most unfold in a similar rhythm. Much depends on the sightings, so the day may not always go to plan, and that is part of the magic!

Dawn and Early Morning (~5:00 AM – ~9:00 AM)
You wake at or just before sunrise, usually around 5:00 AM, when the air is crisp and cool. From your rooftop tent, you unzip the flap to a pink African sky and the sounds of the bush waking up.

With a hot drink and a rusk in hand, you set off on your first game drive. Early morning is prime time for predators on the move, so you roll slowly along the dirt tracks, looking for the tracks of lions and the shapes of hyenas, elephants and giraffes. As the sun climbs, the heat builds and the animals seek shade. Sightings slow down, and the lions and leopards settle into the thick bush to sleep.

After a couple of hours of game viewing, you return to camp for a well-earned breakfast.

Midday and Siesta (~11:00 AM – ~3:00 PM)
The middle of the day is yours to enjoy. Linger over lunch, then nap, read or swim in the camp pool (where available) while monkeys and birds watch from the trees. It is also a lovely time to appreciate the smaller characters who rarely make the headlines, such as warthogs, mongoose and squirrels. It is also an ideal time for some great birding as Africa serves up a smorgasbord of birdlife.

Afternoon Drive (~3:00 PM – ~6:00 PM)
As the afternoon cools, the wildlife stirs and drifts back towards the waterholes and open plains. You head out to explore a different loop, riverfront road or hide, one of you driving while the other, binoculars in hand, serves as the designated spotter. The last hour before sunset offers magical light for photography as herds of zebra, elephant or impala cross the golden savanna.

Evening and Night (~6:00 PM Onwards)
You return to camp before dark for a well-deserved sunset drink around the campfire, by the local waterhole or perched on a rock overlooking camp. Dinner is usually served around 7:00 PM by the fire. Afterwards, you swap stories with your fellow travellers before turning in around 9:00 PM.

The Pangolin - One of Africa's most prehistoric-looking creatures

This scaly, ant-eating oddity is one of the continent's best-known curiosities. The Ground Pangolin (also called Temminck's Pangolin or the Cape Pangolin) makes its home in savannah woodland from South Africa northward. Shy, solitary and nocturnal, pangolins are occasionally spotted by day during the colder winter months.

Despite looking like a tiny tank, the pangolin has one vulnerable spot: its underside. When threatened, it curls into a tight ball, and its keratin scales form a remarkable shield. It often walks on its hind legs, which gives it a charmingly dinosaur-like look. Its long front claws open up termite nests, and its sticky tongue, sometimes longer than the pangolin itself, collects the insects inside. About 90% of its diet is ants and 10% termites.

Even more curious, ground pangolins have no teeth. Instead, hard spines inside their muscular stomachs crush insects, helped by small stones the animal swallows on purpose. Other quirks include a tail that doubles as a weapon, a habit of rolling in dung, and the ability to spray foul-smelling acid to send predators on their way.



Pangolins breed slowly. After a brief mating period in summer and autumn, a single pup is born following a gestation of roughly 105 to 140 days. The pup's soft scales harden within a couple of days, and it rides along on the base of its mother's tail or back while she forages.

Non-Stop flights between Sydney and Cape Town

Good news for Australian travellers: thanks to Qantas, you will soon be able to fly non-stop to Cape Town for the first time. Qantas has announced a new seasonal service between Sydney and South Africa's Mother City.

The direct flights begin in October 2027 and run through Cape Town's summer months until March 2028. They will add almost 30,000 seats between Australia and South Africa, made possible by new Qantas 787-9 Dreamliners arriving in late 2027 as part of the largest fleet renewal in the airline's history.

Cape Town is a true bucket-list city, and Australia's appetite to visit has never been stronger. Affectionately known as the Mother City, it is a vibrant, multi-faceted destination where dramatic natural beauty meets rich history, world-class cuisine and a relaxed outdoor lifestyle. Ask what makes Cape Town number one and most people will say it is a blend of the views, the vibe, the contrast between extreme luxury and raw, unpolished hustle, the adventures, the food and, above all, the people.



Calling all foodies: Cape Town is the Mother of Culinary Delights. From fine dining and café culture to farm-to-fork feasts and street food, her rich cultural heritage comes alive in every flavour. RAW invites you to experience this marvellous destination for yourself through our Food and Wine Safari. See our website for more details on this exciting safari. www.realafricanwilderness.com

SAFARI NEWS HEADLINES

- **Sydney to Cape Town - Qantas announces seasonal flights.** On 6 November 2026, Qantas announced it will launch the first-ever non-stop flights between Australia and Cape Town, South Africa. The service runs during the peak summer season from 19 October 2027 until 24 March 2028.
- **Decade-Low Rhino Poaching:** Namibia recorded 41 poached rhinos in 2025, marking a 53% drop from 2024 and the lowest poaching rate in over a decade, thanks to collaborative efforts by the Blue Rhino Task Team and local communities. But despite these efforts, poaching continues. A massive awareness campaign is underway following the poaching of Dorsand, a pregnant black rhino cow, and her calf in the Kunene region. Ultimate Earth has offered a 1 million Namibian dollar reward for information, and an artist has created a life-sized rock sculpture of the rhinos to be displayed in Windhoek.
- **"Harmony with Wildlife" Payments:** A new scheme by the nonprofit Wild Impact and &Beyond rewards remote villages like Gogomoga and Tsutsubega for coexisting with large mammals. Residents set up camera traps around their villages and earn direct financial payouts from the wildlife photographs, helping offset costs from crop raiding. The Okavango Delta is home to elephants, hippos and large predators, as well as about 130,000 people, including the Indigenous San communities. Dirk Cilliers, professor of conservation planning at South Africa's North-West University, said he welcomes the financial scheme. According to Cilliers"If we expect these communities to accommodate wildlife, there needs to be some tangible benefit for them which this program offers."

