

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS – AFRICAN WILDLIFE SAFARI

General

Is this a Christian oriented trip?

Yes, this is a Christian oriented trip. It's designed to celebrate the incredible diversity of living creatures God made in a place that offers more variety than anywhere else in the world. We will have a brief evening devotions on most days, as well as our own private worship service on the Sunday we are at Moholoholo Lodge. We ask that our guests conduct themselves accordingly, and not wear clothing or use language that would not reflect a Christian or biblical worldview.

Is this an educational trip?

It is most definitely educational! You will be learning so many things about the plants and animals of SA! The game drivers have a wealth of knowledge to share. You will also learn much about Cape Town – the history, and scenery offered there.

What can I expect the weather to be like?

This is wintertime in South Africa. It will generally be cooler and drier in the game reserve areas. Rain is rare. Humidity, low. Mornings can be in the upper 40s, so it can be quite cold. The days can warm up even to 80 degrees.

Cape Town will be different. It's the rainy season in Cape Town at this time of year, so you can expect showers and/or rain about 50% of the time.

You can put the following locations in a weather app on your phone and follow the weather to see what to expect.

- Durban, SA
- St. Lucia, SA
- Hluhluwe, SA
- Kruger National Park, SA
- Hoedspruit, SA
- Cape Town, SA

What type of accommodations are used?

We use Trip Advisor top rated accommodations. We want you to have a clean, comfortable, unique, and safe place to rest! It also helps that the game lodges we use are beautiful! At most places, you will be staying in a bungalow by yourselves. We use only two hotel-type accommodations (in Johannesburg and Cape Town).

What is the group size normally?

- We can take up to 18 people, including Mike and Carrie.

How safe is an African Wildlife Safari?

We do everything we can to ensure a safe and enjoyable trip. The game drives do indeed encounter various kinds of creatures, including dangerous ones. That is actually part of the extreme excitement of a trip of this nature. However, as long as you obey the game guides' instructions, you will be as safe in the game reserves as you could possibly be anywhere else. There are rules, and they are meant to be followed!

In terms of the country itself, we purposely go to areas that are considered safe by any tour standards.

Are children allowed on this trip?

No. Children are not allowed in these game reserves. Only children who are older teens are allowed on game drives. Also, these lodges have a maximum of two people per bungalow, so we cannot give a discount to families who would want to book more than two people per bungalow.

Financial

What does the cost of the trip cover?

The cost of the trip includes round trip airfare from Newark, domestic flights in SA, all ground transportation and transfers in SA, lodging, and most meals. It also includes the boat ride at St. Lucia, and the rehab center tour at Moholoholo, entrance to Kruger National Park, Manyoni Game Reserve, and Motswari Game Reserve. Most of your meals are included. You will be responsible for about 8 meals, tips, laundry costs, and whatever curios you desire to bring home! If you are traveling from central PA, you may want to ride with the group in either a bus, or the limo service we sometimes use, depending on the size of the group. This is also an extra cost.

Can I pay with a credit card?

Unfortunately, no. To offer payment options with credit cards, we would have to add 3.5% to the cost of the trip.

When do I send in my deposit? And when is the balance due?

You will send in your deposit of 50% at the time you book to go on the trip. You will also need to fill out and send in the release forms on our website. The balance is due three months before the trip takes place – usually in early April.

Where can I exchange US dollars for SA Rands?

If you are a member of AAA, they will exchange money for you with no fees. Many banks will also do that for you. Remember to do this several weeks ahead of time! You can also use your debit card in SA to get Rands immediately from your account in the States, but there is most likely an extra fee for this.

How much cash should I take?

We would suggest exchanging several hundred dollars into Rands. You will need cash for certain of the tips – like for the bus drivers, boat driver at St. Lucia, tour guide in Cape Town, and for purchasing things at the various craft stands where we will be stopping. You will be able to use a credit card at the lodges where we stay, as well as restaurants and traditional stores. You can use your credit card for tipping at the lodges.

What about tips?

Tipping in restaurants is 10%, and you can use credit cards.

You will want to tip **in cash** the boat driver in St. Lucia, our bus driver for the bulk of the trip, the bus driver in Cape Town, and the guide in Cape Town. The amount is up to you. Be aware of the current exchange rate, and tip accordingly. (Example: Let's say you want to tip the boat driver \$5 per person. If the current exchange rate is \$1 / R20, then figure your tip at R100.)

The two main lodges will be different since you can pay your tips with your credit card (when you settle your account in case you purchased anything). Your tips here will be divided into two categories ~ A) your driver/guide, and B) The camp staff.

Travel

What inoculations do I need?

South Africa does not require any inoculations. The CDC will recommend a list of inoculations, of course, and we let it up to each guest. Malaria medicine is also not needed during the winter in SA when we will be there, but some guests have chosen to take it as a precaution.

How much luggage can I bring?

You will be allowed ONE larger suitcase (not to weigh over 40 lbs. on domestic flights in SA), one carry-on bag, and one small personal item.

PLEASE NOTE: It is imperative that you DO NOT bring more than one large suitcase! We have extreme limits on cargo space in the buses and transfer vehicles we will be using. Also, the airlines we use in SA have a weight limit of 40 lbs. for checked baggage. Please allow yourself some wiggle room with weight to allow space to bring some things home with you!

Can I make my own flight arrangements?

No. For many reasons, it is necessary that we book and travel as a group.

Do I need a visa?

No.

Is this a handicapped accessible trip?

No, unfortunately. SA does not have the handicapped accessible laws that the US does.

Can I fly first class?

Yes, you can fly first class or Polaris Class on the international flights! (the domestic flights in South Africa are economy). We would have to know that upon booking the trip so we can make those arrangements when we book the group tickets. The rest of the group will be booked into economy comfort seats for the overseas flights.

Medical and/or Travel Insurance

Should I purchase trip cancellation insurance?

That totally depends on you. We strongly suggest that you read the fine print carefully before purchasing, though!

NOTE: We provide, as part of our trip, an extra trip interruption / medical insurance package specific to overseas travelers.

Will there be access to medical care?

Yes, in some locations. We also provide you with an insurance policy for medical evacuation should that need arise. We suggest that you bring along basic medicines that you may need for a trip like this.

Personal

What about laundry?

You will be able to have laundry done for you at Leopard Mountain, Moholoholo, Motswari, and if needed, in Cape Town. Of course, you can always hand wash items of clothing and hang them to dry! Some of the lodges will provide you with a small amount of laundry detergent you can use for hand washing.

Activities

What types of activities are there?

This is an ultimate African wildlife safari. We offer more game drives in unique, big five areas and different environments than anyone else. We schedule a boat ride in St. Lucia to see crocs and hippos, 10 game drives, a game walk, a rehab center tour, a whole day spent at Kruger National Park, and three days in Cape Town seeing the sights there. You will also have the option of taking a boat trip to Seal Island, and doing the cable car ride up Table Mountain, weather permitting, and maintenance schedule permitting.

How much walking or hiking is there on this trip?

Not much at all on this trip! You will do more walking in the airports than you will at the lodges. The exceptions are at Moholoholo, where you can do a game walk if you desire, and in Cape Town, where we visit several sites and a moderate amount of walking is required.