

Prepare your Photo Safari

Order your trip

Going on photo safari is an expensive adventure, ordering on time (one year ahead) will help to do some savings.

In order to enjoy your trip at most it is essential to work with a recognized guide.

For photo safaris in the bush it is recommended to make an appointment with a professional hunter and/or ranger for your personal safety.

It is advised to book your flights well ahead in order to have the most interesting rates.

Make sure you also book a trip cancellation insurance

Local flights can be booked at a local company.

The ideal period for photo safari in Africa is the African autumn and winter (spring and summer in the northern hemisphere). There is less vegetation in that period giving a better view on the animals.

What to book?

Flights : domestic, international and local.

Accommodation, Professional hunter and/or ranger if walking in a Big Five area.

Transport between airport and your lodge and/or a car rental (4x4 is advised)

Entrances and stay in the visited game parks.

Fitness

Taking the right picture in the bush requires a good condition. Walks of more than 5km a day are common and this in temperatures above 30°C. Start training at least 3 months ahead, with daily walks of more than 2km. Use a loaded backpack (as you will be carrying during your safari) and a replacement for your camera during these walks.

For photo safari in a game park on top of a jeep, no specific training is required.

If you leave Europe early in the season it will still be cold and Africa will be hot a thermal shock is possible. Going to a solar center or take a few days to acclimatize are strongly encouraged.

Know your camera

Before departure to Africa get used to your camera. Some pictures will have to be taken in a blink of an eye under very sunny conditions. Make sure you master your camera enabling making pictures of the most beautiful African scenes.

Medical preparation

Make sure your health is ok before leaving.

Some African countries require vaccination. Check the local requirements!

At least an year ahead take contact with your doctor or your local Tropical Institute for your vaccination program.

Paperwork

International Certificate of Vaccination - see vaccination program.

Travel documents and itinerary

Luggage

Clothing:

A pair of walked-in safari boots with gaiters

A pair of slippers for relaxing at the lodge

Cotton socks

Short and long pants

Safari shirts

Light jacket, fleece or pully for during the evenings (it can be cold)

Cotton scarf to protect your neck from the sun

Hat

Toiletry bag with content

!For the plains khaki can be used for the bush use darker colors !

Swimming gear

REMARK: Pack for at least one day of clothing in your hand luggage in case your luggage is lost during flight.

Photographic equipment:

Camera

Lenses

Hard Case for flight

Soft case for during your safari

Spare batteries

Spare memory cards

tripod

Binoculars (smaller ones for in the bush "6x30")

Lens cleanser for your camera

A impact resistant case. Nanuk cases with padded dividers are ideal wheeled cases are an option for heavier cargo.

Other:

Medicines

Sun creme and after sun

Sun glasses

Ornithology book,...