

Safari Questions:

1) I just booked a Safari, what do I do now?

- A) If you do not have a passport, get one.
- B) Research the African animals that are available and put together your trophy list and maybe a trophy “wish” list.
- C) Compare airline ticket prices around the time you want to go. Changing your dates a few days either way can save you hundreds of dollars. If you do not have a direct flight, you should have at least 2 hours between flights to ensure you have plenty of time to reach your connection.
- D) Contact PH and confirm your dates and travel arrangements.
- E) Book your airline tickets and send itinerary to the PH.
- F) If you are taking your gun(s), contact Rifle Permits (www.riflepermits.com) and get your firearm import approval completed at least 60 days before you leave.
- G) Talk to your PH and confirm your arrival date and time and finalized trophy list. The trophy list is important because some animals are only available on certain concessions.
- H) Talk to your PH about side trip(s) and shopping options in the area(s) you will be hunting.
- I) Contact USA taxidermists and South African taxidermists and decide where you are going get your trophies mounted. All hides must be tanned or “dipped” before they can be shipped to the US.

2) What Shots are required?

- A) For most people, we recommend you get a tetanus shot. Hepatitis shots are optional along with malaria pills or shots.
- B) We insist you consult your doctor and make an informed decision regarding ALL medication you need during your Safari.
- C) Inform your PH about any allergies or unique medical conditions you have and medicine you are taking.

3) What essentials do I need to take on Safari?

- A) Good binoculars and a digital camera(s). Include these items in your carry on luggage so they do not get “lost” by the airlines.
- B) Extra Memory Cards for camera. Some device to download the pictures onto is also very useful.
- C) Binocular shoulder harness that holds the binoculars to your chest.

4) How much ammunition should I take?

- A) We recommend you bring 100 rounds of ammunition for each gun.
- B) Before you begin your safari, you will verify your rifle is sighted in after your long journey.
- C) For most guns, sight in 1.5" to 2" high at 100 yards. This puts you about dead on at 200 yards and 4" to 8" low at 300 yards.
- D) Write down the drop at different distances on a piece of paper and tape it to your gun stock.
- E) Use quality bullets like Nosler, Bear Claw or Barnes. African animals are big and tough to kill and if you draw blood, you are obligated to pay for that animal.

5) What type of clothing is required?

- A) Camo clothing is fine, but you can wear tan or green also.
- B) Wear one set of hunting clothing and take two with you.
- C) Zippered Cargo Pants work great because they have lots of large pockets and the pant legs are removable if the weather is hot.
- D) Daily laundry service is usually available so there is no need to take a ton of cloths.

6) What should I take as part of my carry on luggage besides my binoculars and a digital camera?

- A) We recommend you take everything you absolutely need during your safari along with copies of your passport and gun permits.
- B) It is also a good idea to leave a copy of your passport and gun permits with someone in the USA that can fax them to you in an emergency.

7) What is the best time to go?

- A) We hunt from March through November and the absolute best time to go is whenever you can. Hunting in Africa is quite different than hunting in the US and there really is not a "best" time to go.
- B) We highly recommend a spring or fall Safari remembering the seasons are reversed (Summer is Winter and Winter is Summer). The weather is awesome during these times and the plane fares are cheaper than during the summer.
- C) Plan on daytime temperatures in the 70's or 80's and nighttime temperatures in the 40's and 50's during the spring and fall seasons.

8) Does my phone work in South Africa?

- A) South Africa has great coverage for most cell phones. Phones should work well, but you need to get international service on your plan and your phone must be international capable.
- B) Check with your phone provider before you leave and you should have no problems.

9) What happens if I wound an animal and the animal is not recovered?

- A) Africa is like a lot of places, the general rule is “if you draw blood, you pay for the animal”.

10) Will my credit card work in Africa?

- A) Yes. Call your credit card company before you leave and inform them that you may be making purchases in South Africa during your Safari.

11) How do I get my hides home?

- A) Capping and salting is included in the trophy fee. Dipping by a taxidermist is not. All hides must be dipped before exporting to the USA.
- B) Typically it takes a year to get your mounted trophies home.
- C) Some people have the animals mounted Africa and some insist their local taxidermist in the USA do the mounts. It is up to you to decide.
- D) It is usually cheaper (overall) to have it done in Africa especially if you are having rugs made.
- E) Rifle and bow cases along with area rugs can be made from the back skins if you are having shoulder mounts made.

12) Any other tips you can provide?

- A) Ammo Sleeve for your rifle stock. The sleeve fits over your stock and provides 6-8 rounds of ammo at your finger tips. Belt holders work great also.
- B) Sling for your gun.
- C) Journal to keep notes about the hunt each day while the details are fresh in your mind and try to capture your impressions and feelings.
- D) Duffle bag or nylon bag inside your luggage for stuff you buy.
- E) You have limited space/weight in each bag so make sure you pack wisely. For instance, your gun and case might weigh 40 pounds and each bag can weigh 60 pounds. That means you can put 20 additional pounds in your gun case for free.
- F) Black permanent marker to mark your cartridge brass with the name of the animal you shot with it.
- G) Used combination locks on your gun case so you will not have to worry about leaving the keys at home or losing them.
- H) When you land in Johannesburg, Ferdi will be there to greet you. If you are bringing a gun and have used Rifle Permits, they will also have a representative there to greet you and walk you through getting your gun. When you leave, Ferdi will drop you off at the airport and you have to check in by yourself. During this time, do not give your gun to anyone! There might be people offering to help you check in your gun or even do it for you. Gracefully decline their offer. The airline will send you to security to verify the number on your gun matches the paperwork and then you will be escorted back to the check-in counter and your gun will be put on the luggage belt and loaded onto the airplane. That is the only time you should let your gun leave your possession.
- I) If you are taking a firearm and using RiflePermits.com, make sure you have \$90 readily available when you land in Johannesburg. I took \$100 dollar travelers check in my carry on luggage and I told him to keep the change.

13) The Brochure states “Prices Subject to Change”. Why does this happen?

- A) Since Safaris are booked 9-12 months in advance, minor changes to trophy fees and daily rates may occur between when you book and the time you actually go on Safari. These changes are due primarily to inflation and the dollar to rand exchange rate.
- B) Talk to your PH in the weeks leading up to your Safari and review the daily rates and trophy fees for changes that effect the costs of your Safari.

14) Any final thoughts?

- A) If you need anything before, during or after your Safari, do not hesitate to talk to your PH. Emails work for most things, but a ten minute conversation on the phone is well worth the phone bill.
- B) Go on Safari with an open mind. Sometimes you are going to be eating and doing things that are totally different than what you are used to. Roll with it and have fun...this is your trip of a lifetime!!!