



## KNOW BEFORE YOU GO!



### BEFORE YOU TRAVEL

**The information below is pertinent to prepare for your travels to Bushmen Safaris.  
Please read the entire document carefully.**

#### **PASSPORT**

A passport valid for at least 6 months after your travel concludes is required. Please be sure that you have at least two empty pages for entry/exit stamps.

If you need to renew your passport or get a new one, be sure to allow sufficient time (up to 6 weeks). You will need two recent photos plus proof of citizenship or your expired passport. If you are on a tight deadline, you can request express service for an additional fee. You can visit the National Passport Information Center's [website](#) for further information.

We recommend that you make two copies of your first passport page – keep one copy at home in the unlikely event that your passport is lost and take one copy along to store in your carryon bag.

## **CUSTOMS**

You do not need any extra permits or paperwork for paperwork to bring your bow or crossbow into South Africa.

## **TAKING CARE OF YOURSELF**

### **RECOMMENDED VACCINES**

Tetanus-diphtheria, hepatitis (A & B) and typhoid are vaccines we recommend, but aren't mandatory. Many of them you may have already obtained as a child so be sure to let your doctor know your inoculation history.

### **MALARIA**

Please consult your doctor for a prescription for a malaria suppressant at least a week prior to departure as tablets should be taken a few days before you depart, as well as during and after trip. Malaria symptoms can appear as few as 8 days after exposure or a year later. If you experience any flu like symptoms such as chills and fever, insist on a blood test for malaria. Delays in treatment can have serious consequences. For further information, check out the CDC's [web page](#) on malaria prevention.

### **FOOD AND WATER**

Food at the lodge is carefully prepared (and extremely tasty). Please let us know of any dietary restrictions and preferences so we can prepare for that in advance. Bottled water will be readily available throughout your trip.

### **MEDICAL FACILITIES**

Our staff will be able to assist with your most basic medical needs; however, for anything more serious, you will be taken to an appropriate medical facility. Doctors and hospitals often expect immediate cash payment for health care services. U.S. medical insurance is not always valid outside the United States. It is therefore suggested that you have comprehensive medical insurance to cover your travels.

### **TRAVELING**

Your flight to Africa will be quite long and most likely heading in an eastward direction, which increases the symptoms of jet lag.

Here are some simple, effective recommendations for reducing the effects of jet lag:

On takeoff, set your watch to the time of your destination and try to sleep according to the local schedule.

Consume dietary fiber (e.g., apples); drink plenty of water and fruit juice rather than tea or coffee.

On arrival, take a shower, continue hydrating, and try to remain active until it is time for bed.

## PACKING

Please keep in mind when packing that there is **daily laundry service** at camp so it is only necessary to pack 2-3 outfits. We suggest you pack camouflage or dark clothes to wear while hunting and light weight cotton clothing is sufficient during the other times.

### **SAMPLE PACKING LIST** (For a trip of approximately 10 days)

<b>CLOTHING LIST</b>
2 Pair comfortable lightweight pants
3 Pair lightweight shorts
2 Long sleeve shirts
3 Short sleeve shirts
3 Cotton t-shirts
1 Pair sunglasses and cleaning cloth
1 Pair walking shoes or hiking boots and alternate pair of shoes such as sandals
1 Pair flip-flops (shower/pool)
1 Hat
1 Sweater or fleece for cool evenings
1 Lightweight rain jacket
1 Swimming suit

<b>TOILETRIES</b>
Sunscreen SPF 15 or higher
Lip balm
Wet wipes and/or antibacterial gel
Small first aid kit to include: bandages, eye drops, anti-diarrhea medicine, antiseptic cream, pain reliever, allergy medicine, motion sickness medication and antacid
Unscented deodorant
Scent-free Insect repellent
Personal toiletries
Prescription drugs (Also bring a printed list of your medications if not in labeled bottles)
Extra reading glasses or contact lenses

<b>OTHER THINGS TO PACK</b>
Small flashlight with extra batteries
Binoculars
Rangefinder
Still/video camera
Extra batteries and necessary chargers

Reading materials (nothing that is backlit)
Bow
2 dozen arrows with good broadheads
6 practice arrows exactly like hunting arrows
Face mask or camo and glove or camo
Small duffle bag to carry items to and from the blind
Airline tickets
Credit cards (we suggest you make a photocopy of your cards)
Passport and applicable visa (we suggest you make a colored photocopy as well)

## **MONEY**

### **CREDIT CARDS AND ATMS**

Major credit cards such as American Express, MasterCard and Visa are widely accepted. It is advisable to carry some cash in U.S. Dollars for purchases outside urban areas and tipping. Exchange rates at banks within the airport are generally very good. You should not depend on your ATM card or credit card outside of the U.S. unless you have informed your bank that you will be using the card in Africa. Cash works best in the African marketplaces and with vendors along the road, where bargaining is expected.

### **TIPPING**

Tips are always at your discretion but it's customary to tip the professional hunter 10% - 20% of the total hunt cost (package price plus trophy fees). They will then tip out the rest of the staff.

## **CELLULAR PHONES & STAYING IN TOUCH**

Over the past several years, mobile technology has become readily available in and around Africa, which means it has gotten easier and cheaper to call internationally.

### **GET YOUR PHONE READY**

#### **What'sApp**

- We highly recommend that you and anyone back home you plan to communicate with download this app. WhatsApp Messenger is a freeware, cross-platform messaging and Voice over IP service owned by Facebook. It allows users to send text and voice messages, make voice and video calls, share images, documents, user locations, and other media for free.

#### **International Data Plan**

- Most cellular providers have an option for a short-term international data plan. It is recommended to look into this as well for e-mail and anything else that may require data usage.
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## **RESPECTING WILDLIFE CODE OF CONDUCT**

The safety precautions advised by the staff needs to be taken seriously, and strictly adhered to. Observe animals silently and with minimum disturbance to their natural activities.

Never attempt to attract an animal's attention. Don't imitate animal sounds, clap your hands, pound the vehicle or throw objects.

Please respect the staff's judgment about proximity to wildlife. Don't insist on going closer so you can get a better photograph. Getting too close may hinder a hunt or cause animals to abandon a hard-earned meal.

Never attempt to feed or approach any wild animal on foot.

## **GENERAL QUESTIONS**

### **Is it safe?**

- Yes, it is very safe. The majority of your time will be spent on the ranch which is quite remote. When you land in Johannesburg you will be met by our Professional Hunter, Shannon and driven directly to the ranch.

### **Is there a specific airline or flight you would recommend?**

- We recommend Delta flight 200 from Atlanta arriving in Johannesburg at 4:40pm (or 5:35pm) and Delta flight 201 departing Johannesburg at 7:55pm.
- If everyone arrives on a morning flight and one person comes in on an evening flight, then others must wait to do the transfer together.
- We also suggest you pack your valuables (especially binoculars and rangefinder) in your carry-on luggage and secure any checked luggage with "TSA Approved" locks.

### **Children - Traveling to/from South Africa with Children**

- New immigration laws have been passed and if you are traveling with any minors (under age 18) please go to the following website to make sure you have the correct documents or else you could have issues entering South Africa and re-entry into the States.
  - <http://www.dha.gov.za/files/Brochures/Immigrationleaflet.pdf>

### **Is there anything we can bring the staff/locals?**

- Anything would be very appreciated and helpful. We have had anything from pocket knives, small toys and books to toothpaste and toothbrushes. They are grateful for it all.

### **How do we pay our bill?**

- Our preferred method of payment is by check. We accept major credit cards - Visa, Master, Amex but payments made will incur a 3% processing fee.
- After the \$2,500 deposit is made you don't owe anything until you return from your hunt. You will review your total charges in Africa and sign an "IOU" that will be sent to our Stateside office.

**Is the 15% VAT added to the posted trophy fees and the overall cost of the hunt? Or is it included in your advertised prices?**

- The VAT tax is not added to any trophy fees if the hunter is taking part of the animal home. VAT tax is only added to daily rates (transportation days are excluded).

**How many people will be in hunting camp?**

- There are typically 6 hunters in camp.

**What options does the non-hunter have?**

- In addition to our superior on-site accommodations, photo and video opportunities there are also day trip activities such as spa services and a lion tour. There are also 3-5 day trip options such as amazing park tours at Kruger National Park, golfing at Sun City, and shopping and wine tasting in and around Cape Town.

## **TAXIDERMISTRY QUESTIONS**

**What's your recommendation for taxidermy?**

- If you have a taxidermist at home you currently use that is average with African animals you are better off doing everything in South Africa. If you have a taxidermist at home that is very good, the quality will be better than in South Africa. You will typically pay more in the States and the process will take longer. If you don't have a taxidermist at home we would suggest having everything done in South Africa.

**What will be the cost of taxidermy work/dipping and packing of raw trophies?**

- We work closely with [Highveld Taxidermy](#) and [Life-Form Taxidermy](#) in South Africa so would reach out to them for quotes.

**When do we decide how we want our trophies mounted?**

- Before your hunt is a good time to think about how you plan to have your trophies mounted. Once an animal is down we will take pictures and then it will be skinned per your instructions. The four basic options are:
  - Full mount
  - Shoulder mount
  - Pedestal mount
  - Flat skin (rug)
- It is very important that you have an idea on what you would like to do with each trophy because each type of mount requires different cuts (skinning procedures) and you cannot change your mind after the animal has been skinned.
- After your safari if you decide that you would like another style of mount we can arrange for another skin at an additional cost which will be quoted upon inquiry.

**How can I pay the taxidermist?**

- You can typically pay with a wire transfer or credit card. They will most likely want 50% down before they begin any work.

## HUNTING/EQUIPMENT QUESTIONS

### **What bow(s)/arrows/broadheads work best for Africa?**

- With the quality of compound bows used today; no more than a 75 pound draw weight is necessary for the bigger animals (Buffalo, Giraffe, Kudu, Eland) and no more than a 60 pound draw weight is necessary for the smaller plains game animals. Smaller animals such as an Impala and Blesbuck could even be taken with a 50 pound draw weight. Broadheads and shot placement are the most important factors in Africa.
- Of the three main types of Broadheads, namely fixed blades, removable blades and mechanical i.e. expandable blades, our experience and preference favors fixed blades, for these have proven to be most effective in our experience pursuing Africa game. This is sure to be somewhat controversial as each hunter typically has his or her own preference.
  - We suggest you bring 2 dozen arrows and 1 dozen hunting broadheads. If you want to bring any practice broadheads that would be in addition.
- **Rule of thumb:** Use any bow/arrow combination you would hunt elk with.

### **What additional equipment should I bring?**

- All of your primary hunting gear plus the following: pocket knife, flashlight, extra batteries, binoculars, range finder, camera and/or video camera.
- Remember to pack an extra set of strings and cables to be safe. Also, make sure that you pack dark hunting clothes. Dark clothes (camouflage or plain) help disguise your movement in the blinds.

### **What is the best time of year to hunt?**

- Hunting season is from March to October.
  - March/October-hottest times (85-105°F)
  - April/May/August/September-(70-90°F)
  - June/July-winter months (40-55°F)
- During our hottest months (March, April, September and October) the animals tend to need more water so they come to the water hole more frequently.
- During our winter months the animals can't depend on the green grass/leaves to get their water since it is drier which causes them to come to the water holes more often. The dry season also makes the animals easier to spot because the grass and bush cover are minimal.

### **What are the ground blinds like?**

- They are very spacious with approximate dimensions of 10'x10'x8'. Each are made of concrete and have a layer of insulation and have a shooting window and an additional one for a camera. We also put an Ozonics machine in during the hunt to help eliminate scent.

## FACILITY QUESTIONS

**Do guests have a private room?**

- Yes

**What size are the beds?**

- Either a King or a queen

**Is there a bathroom in the room?**

- Yes

**Do we need to bring toiletries or are they provided?**

- Please bring what you need.

**Is laundry service available?**

- Yes, it is done daily.

**Are there TV's in the rooms?**

- Yes

**What kind of electric adapters/converters do we need to bring?**

- None. We have hooked up power strips with US plugs for the clients to use. You do need to make sure the item you are plugging in can take 220v.

**Do you have wifi available throughout the facility?**

- Yes, we have WiFi but it can be weak in some areas.

**Is the pool heated?**

- No

## SOCIAL MEDIA

We would love for you to join us on social media before, during and after your trip. It's easy and at your fingertips, from your phone. Here are a few ways you can connect with us and fellow Africa travelers:

Like us on [Facebook](#), Follow us on [Instagram](#) , Follow us on [Twitter](#)

**We know privacy is key:**

- If you email us a photo or tag us or share something with us on any of the social channels, the assumption is that you agree to us sharing it, re-posting it etc. We will never use your full name and if there is something you do not want us to share please let us know.
- If your profiles are all set as private on various emails, or, if you prefer it anyway, just email us great photos from your trip that you are happy for us to share on social media, our website or newsletter.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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**Where are we located in South Africa?**

[Front Gate](#)