

A wide-angle photograph of an African savanna landscape under a clear blue sky. In the foreground, several giraffes and zebras are visible, looking towards the right. The background shows a vast, green plain with scattered trees and a clear horizon.

PREPARING FOR YOUR ADVENTURE TO AFRICA

It's not long now until you'll be on your way to Africa! The information provided below is to help you prepare for travel to this incredible part of the world and to ensure you have the best possible holiday.

SOME INFORMATION ON OUR GUIDES

Each country we visit in Africa has their own unique culture and intriguing history, making each one an incredibly interesting and fascinating destination in its own right. In Africa, our guides are often also our drivers and depending on the tour, will either accompany us for the entire tour or change per country.

DON'T BE AFRAID TO ASK QUESTIONS

Your guide is not there simply to move you around from place to place... in fact, they are a wealth of knowledge about the area you are visiting! Many have grown up in the region and have studied hard to become a local guide. There probably wouldn't be much that you could ask them about (that bird, that elephant, that big tall thing with spots) that they couldn't answer!

FITNESS

Let's talk fitness... a Bunnik Tour is for independently minded travellers with good levels of mobility. We want to ensure that all our guests enjoy their trip, not struggle through it. Our African tours are designed to soak in as much of the local atmosphere as possible, which will usually involve walking for several hours, often over uneven streets, up and down stairs and inclines, and outdoors, over rugged terrain. Your ability to walk unaided for this length of time, and also to be able to carry your own luggage is imperative. You must also be able to get on and off various modes of transport, including small boats, without assistance. Our firm fitness guidelines are for your safety, as well as the safety of your fellow travellers. Further details can be found on our website www.bunniktours.com.au under the 'Info' banner.

CULTURAL DIFFERENCES & EXPECTATIONS

Every country we visit will have its own unique cultural differences that make travel such a wonderful, mind broadening experience. In Africa, the cultural differences can be dramatic (even between countries) and we find they can cause quite a bit of culture shock, so it helps to be prepared for the unexpected! Here, it also pays to be a little more careful with water cleanliness and food hygiene.

BORDER CROSSINGS

When flying between countries while on tour, border formalities are taken care of upon flight check in, however, sometimes we cross international borders by land. This process usually involves passing through check points and completing border procedures for both countries. In some circumstances, this process can take some time, depending on the amount of people crossing the border at any one time. In some instances you will also change vehicles, so you will need to cross the border with your luggage and go through several check points.

INTERNAL FLIGHTS IN AFRICA

Internal flights within Africa are often operated with light aircraft. When flying throughout Africa, depending on the country and the schedule, Bunnik Tours uses a local airline. With any airline, schedules and timings are always subject to change, however some of the African airlines are notorious for making last minute changes. We book and secure flights to ensure the best possibility of reaching our next destination in plenty of time and with minimal impact to our itinerary, in case there is a change to the expected flight time. Please understand that any unforeseen airline changes or cancellations are out of our hands.

LUGGAGE REQUIREMENTS

Due to the limited storage space in light aircraft and safari vehicles in Africa, luggage is restricted to a maximum of 15kg including one large soft sided bag and your hand luggage.

ROAD QUALITY

Be prepared that the road quality in many African countries is poor! This means some bumpy rides and long, slow drives. Going on safari can be tiring and although some downtime between game drives is intended, some days can be spent entirely searching for wildlife. Days start early and can be long. In all national parks and reserves in Africa you can expect poorly maintained gravel roads. As we say when travelling through Africa, you'll receive many free African massages thanks to the bumpy roads!

VEHICLES

We use a variety of transport on most of our tours, changing from country to country. The vehicles we use are often smaller vehicles than you may be used to, which is why in Africa our small group tours are limited to just 12 travellers. On tour in Africa you may travel in Land Cruisers, coasters, safari trucks and coaches.

DOLLARS & SENSE

Here at Bunnik Tours, we like to be prepared, so we recommend departing with at least a small amount of cash in the local currencies of the destinations you are visiting. USD or South African rand are the best currencies to bring with you to Africa. Alternatively, you can exchange some money at the arrival airport, however, the exchange rates may not be as competitive. If you need to exchange more money later in the trip, your guide will be able to advise you on the best places to change money.

We also recommend getting small denominations in case you have to pay to use a public toilet, or to buy yourself a drink or a snack from a local vendor.

WATER & SOFT DRINKS IN AFRICA

Unfortunately, unless you want a sore tummy, tap water is not safe to drink in Africa. Bottled water and other beverages are sold almost everywhere. Generally speaking, you will be provided with a bottle of water upon arrival from your flight and sometimes one is provided per person in your hotel room. Your safari Land Cruisers will also be stocked with water.

DIETARY REQUIREMENTS

We suggest informing your Travel Specialist of any dietary restrictions you may have prior to departure. It is also helpful to translate your dietary requirements into the local language of your destination (Google Translate is a handy tool for this). Keeping a printed or photographed copy of the translation can aid in communicating your needs to waiting staff. It's important to keep in mind that local restaurants may have difficulty catering to specific dietary needs, especially gluten-free, celiac or vegan preferences. Unfortunately, we cannot guarantee that all meals served will be free from allergens.

TEA & COFFEE MAKING FACILITIES

Most lodges and hotels where you'll be staying have tea and coffee making facilities in the room. However, this is not guaranteed so if you would like to enjoy a tea or coffee in your room, we suggest packing a travel kettle or portable heat immersion element along with your favourite teabags and coffee.

ELECTRICITY

Generators are commonly used for electricity in many African lodges and hotels. However, due to their remote locations, occasional power fluctuations or outages may occur during certain periods which can also affect hot water. If you rely on a powered device like a sleep apnoea machine, please ensure you bring backup batteries or a power bank. If electricity and hot water continues to be unavailable in your room, please let the hotel reception or your guide know.

A NOTE ON CLOTHING

On game drives it is best to wear muted, neutral coloured clothing – greens, olives, browns and khakis, to blend in with your surrounds and to avoid the attention of the animals. Also, in general, try to avoid the colour blue as it attracts tsetse flies, and those bites are nasty!

SOUVENIRS

We all like to bring back lovely memories of the places we visit, and Africa is no exception. There will be plenty of opportunities for you to purchase some souvenirs. Bartering is part of the African lifestyle when purchasing souvenirs from the market or vendor, but in shops it is not custom to barter. Souvenirs can be expensive in Africa, especially the real ones! So, if you've seen something you like, feel free to barter for the best price, but not bartering too hard is a great way to help the local community.

OPTIONAL TOURS

The optional tours offered in Africa are a collection of what can be enjoyed during your free time in various destinations, but this is time permitting and they are not guaranteed. Should something especially interest you, we recommend booking an additional night or two either before or after your tour, to guarantee you have the time available. All prices listed are subject to change due to currency fluctuations.

WI-FI

Where available, in most hotels there will be Wi-Fi available free of charge. However, Wi-Fi connections can be patchy at best in remote areas.

ISSUES ON TOUR

Should you encounter any issues whilst on tour, we encourage you to discuss it with your guide or contact Bunnik Tours as soon as possible. Any problems are best discussed and rectified at the time they occur to ensure you and everyone else can enjoy their time on tour.

TOUR FACTS & TIPS

For each country we visit, we've put together some handy facts and tips on things like local etiquette, what to wear, currency and dining. Head to our [Tour Facts & Tips page](#) to find out more.

KEEP AN OPEN MIND!

To get the best out of your holiday, keep an open mind. The best memories come your way when you take everything in your stride and enjoy the unique experience of travelling through some of the most interesting places in the world.

We wish you a truly wonderful journey in this fascinating part of the world!



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