

Critters,
the Fear Factor
& your
African Safari



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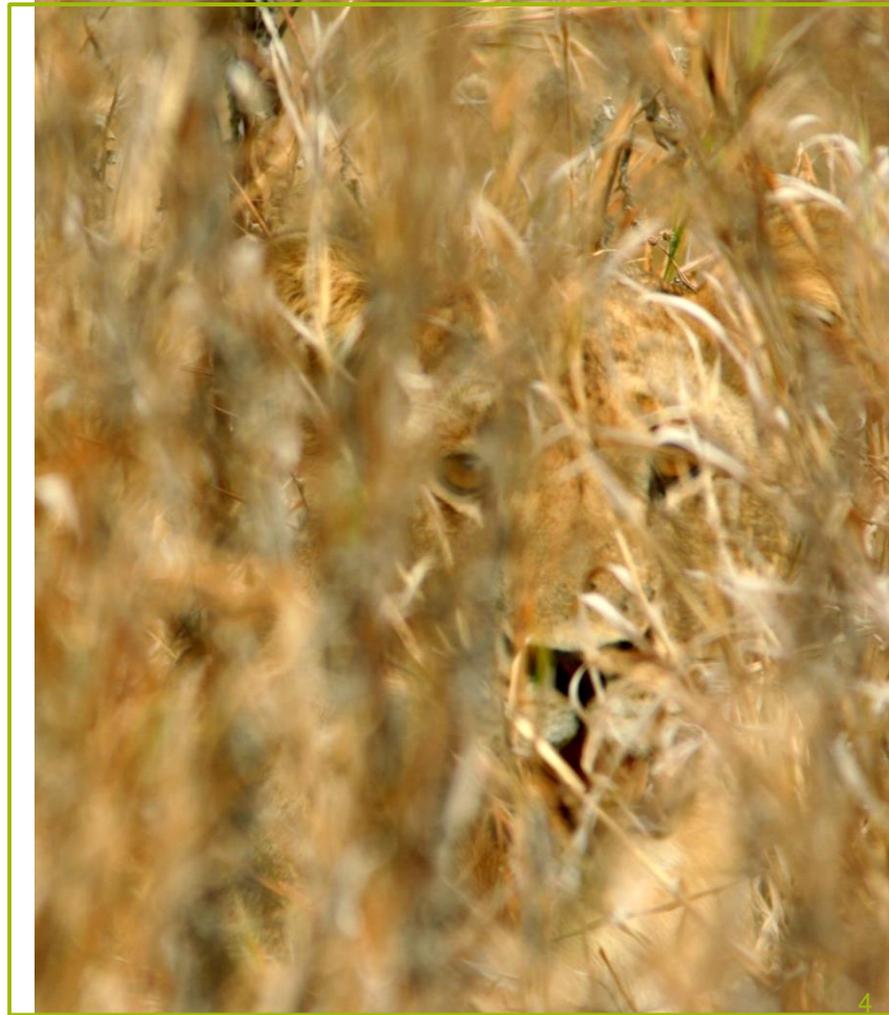
Some lucky individuals are fearless or utterly rational in all their activities and undertakings. But many of us are burdened with phobias. You might be cool about insects and creepy crawlies, but distinctly uneasy about light aircraft. Or being in, on or under the water...

In preparing for any new experience, it's a good idea to square up to these and ask yourself whether your feelings are strong enough to justify designing a trip around them. If prompted, 30% of us will acknowledge a fear of spiders. I'm frightened of snakes, (inconvenient but not without foundation), and my husband is peculiar about beetles, fascinating though they are.

But our wanderlust trumps these fears and I console myself with knowing that most snakes are less keen on meeting me than vice versa.

For some other potential travellers, their fear may *not* be outweighed by the thrill of seeing elephant in the wild. Or the world from a balloon. It could be necessary to make some compromises to keep everyone in the party happy.

Here are a few factors to consider when going on a safari. Try to think about these sooner, rather than later, when planning a trip to Africa.





Factors to Consider



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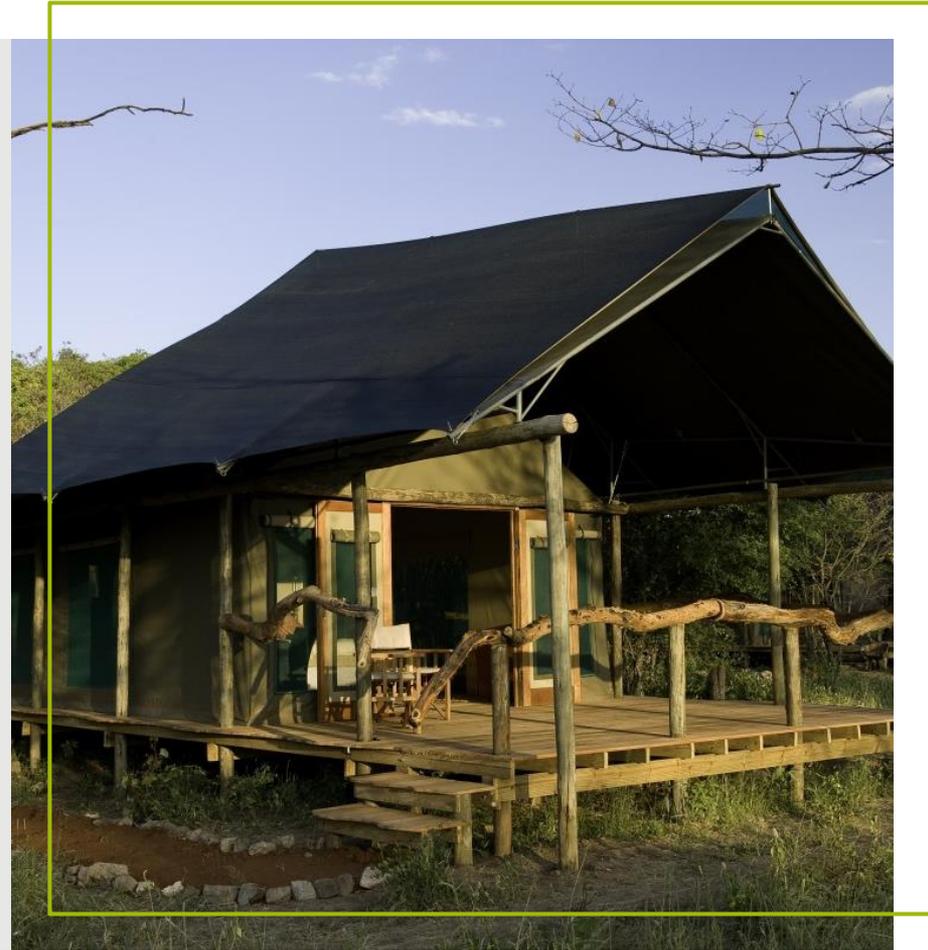


1. Flying in Light Aircraft

Great views, they enable access to otherwise impossible terrain and saves valuable time that can be spent in on safari. Sometimes and in some places, there is an overland alternative. But not always!

2. Sleeping Under Canvas

A tented safari camp comes in various guises, from the simplicity of a two-person dome tent (fly-camps only) to luxurious tented suites twice the size of the avg flat. In South Africa and Namibia, there are plenty of non-tented lodges. But elsewhere an aversion to sleeping under canvas it could limit your choices drastically. Especially in Tanzania or Botswana as the 'best practice' is to *only* have lodges that have no lasting impact on the parks and reserves.





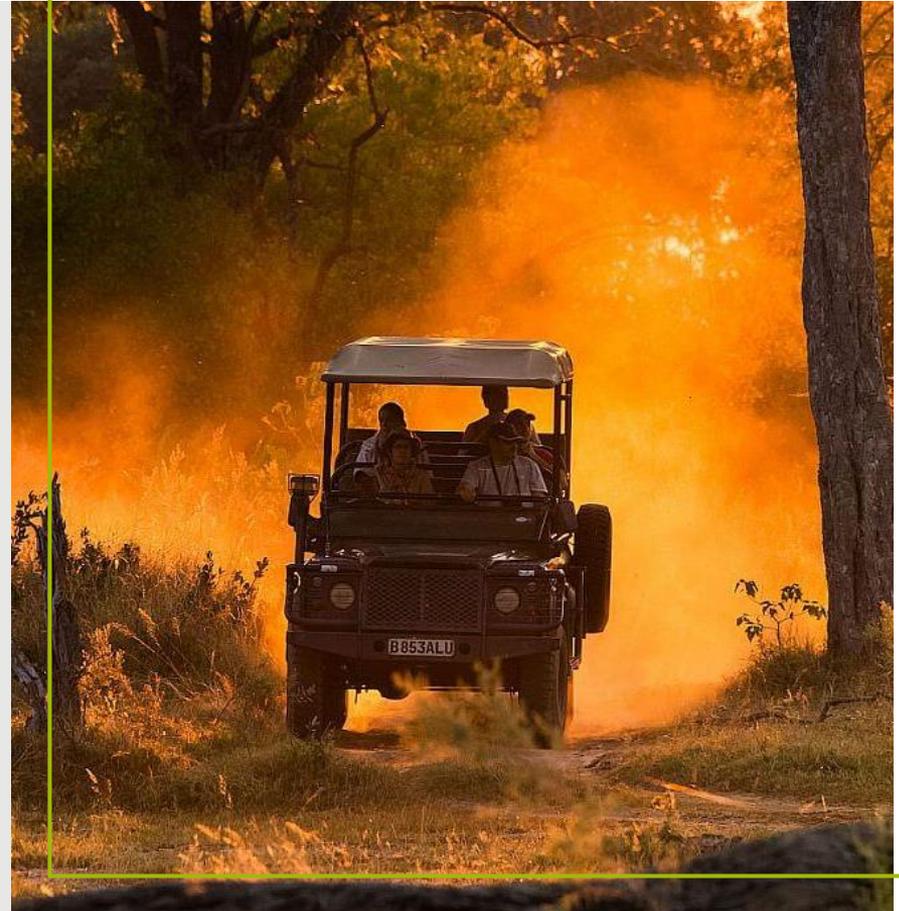
3. Spiders and Insects

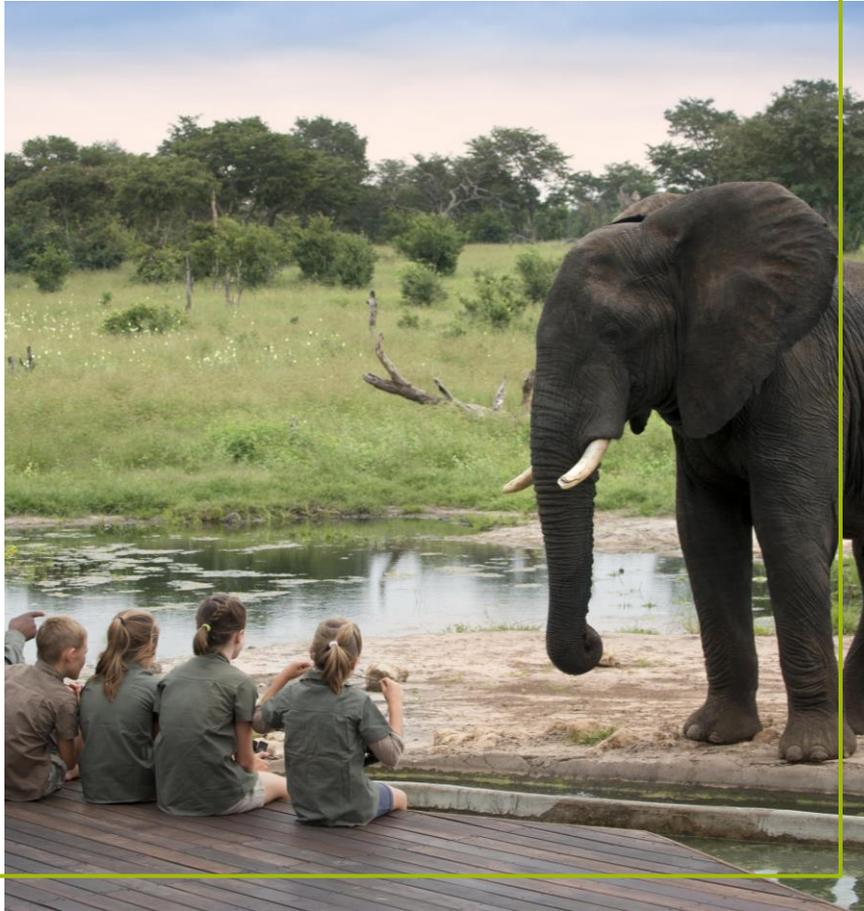
This phobia is often linked to the 'would I prefer a tent or a chalet?' question. Unfortunately, little creatures have no more respect for bricks and mortar than canvas as an obstacle to Safari invading 'your' space. If you truly cannot abide the prospect, your best bet is to seek out a safari lodge with air-conditioning.

4. Dust, dirt & dishevelment

It can come as a nasty shock to people if they only realise late in the day that luggage can be restricted on safari. In East Africa the norm is just 15 kg per person, in soft bags. In Botswana it is 20 kg. This is perfectly 'do-able' with a bit of forward planning, but it does tend to limit the scope for designer clothes or stunning coiffure.

You'll want to ditch hair dryers as there is unlikely to be sufficient voltage to use them. Don't despair as nearly all the lodges do laundry if you are staying for more than one night and the dress code is definitely 'casual'.





5. The Fear Factor

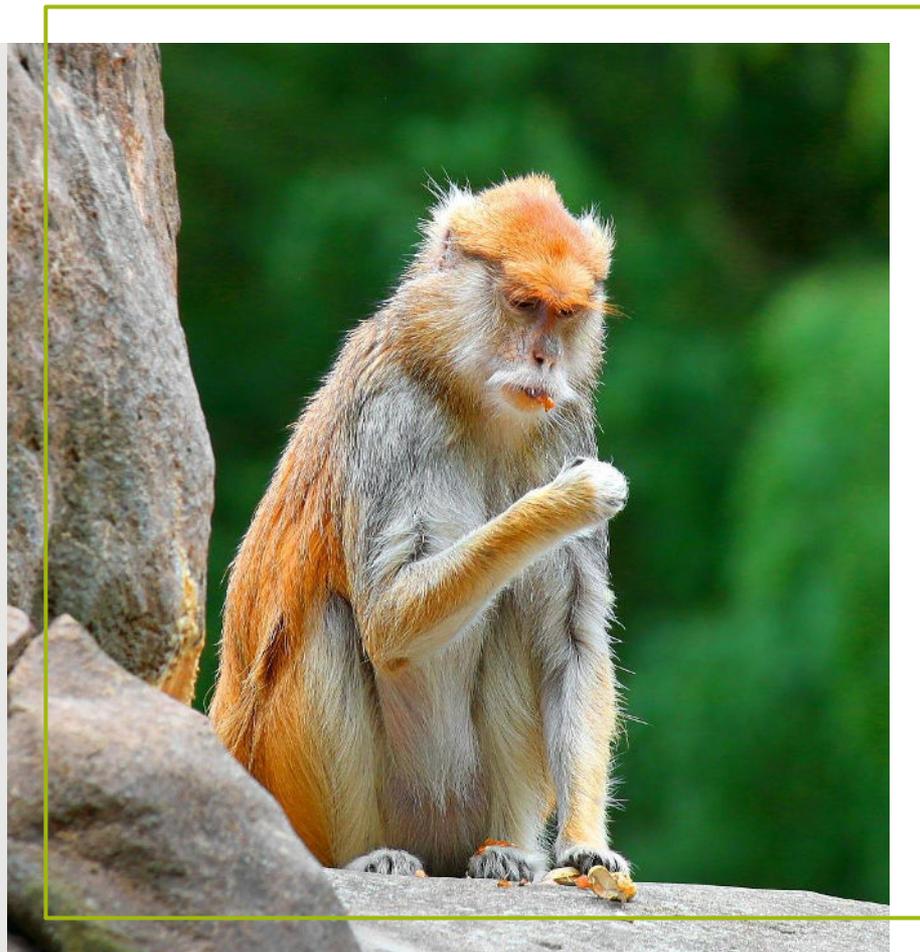
If you or someone in your party is nervous about the proximity of large, wild animals it is important to understand that only a few safari lodges, mainly in South Africa, are surrounded by any form of fencing. Indeed, in many camps the animals often roam among the tents on ancient trails that long pre-date the arrival of any safari lodge. It is hard to guess how you will feel about this until you are confronted with a large animal outside your tent. The good news is that most people absolutely love it!

But try to guess how you might respond? Often there's a hooter in your room so you can tell lodge you have visitors. In some water areas hippos abound. When you are in a canoe or dugout, they appear very large. So before doing a long safari trip it is a good idea to try a short one.

6. Jabs and Tablets

You will need to get inoculations and take anti-malarial tablets in most safari areas. This advice is not about specific medical recommendations as travel health belongs with the medical profession, but it is worth deciding early if you want to avoid them.

Fortunately, there are many non-malarial game reserves in South Africa where you can see and experience the 'Big Five' and other iconic African plains species in their natural habitat.





If you think about these matters NOW, in your early planning stages, you can decide whether to let your concerns guide your safari choices or whether to 'just cope'. Above all, tell your safari travel planner and ask them for their recommendations.



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We hope that this guide has been useful. Below I summarize top tips and we hope to hear from you when you start planning your safari trip.

1

Ask yourself how flexible you are prepared to be.

2

With this in mind, decide where and when you might like to go.

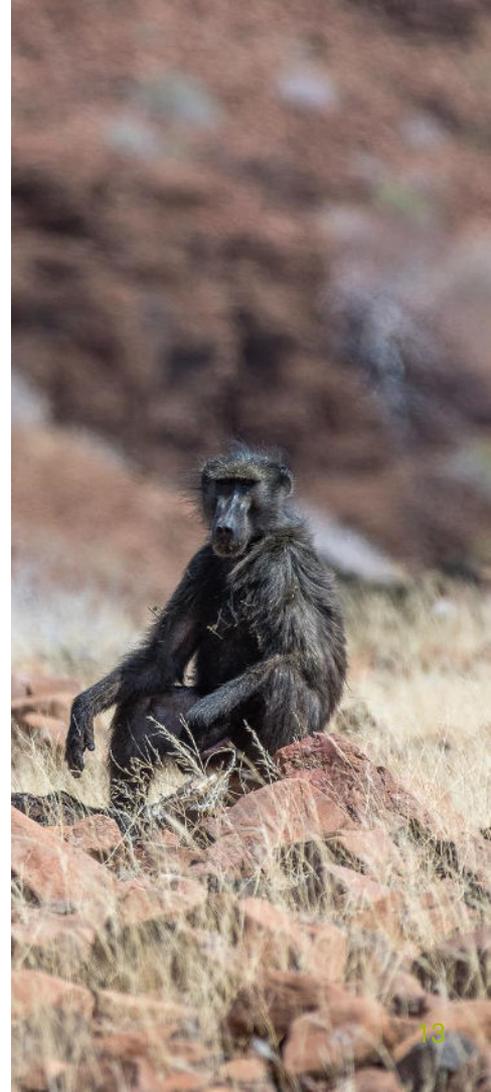
3

Decide on the type of holiday you like and set your budget accordingly.

4

Find a reputable tour operator, agent or safari company to plan with.

Get in touch with us
HERE



About The Author

Ginny Russell is UK Managing Director of Cedarberg Africa, a specialist safari company she co-founded to help people unsure where to turn for friendly, well-informed safari planning.

Ginny has visited and explored all the countries marketed by Cedarberg Africa. First lured to Kenya in the mid-1980s, Ginny continues to travel throughout East and Southern Africa, seeking out the best experiences and most special places to stay.

CEDARBERG AFRICA has been designing tailor-made holidays and safaris to East and Southern Africa since 1995. A fully licensed and financially bonded tour operator in the UK and South Africa, we assure you of great value and unbiased, expert advice.



Thank you!

Spectacular by Nature, Personal by Design

This Guide to Crtters on Safari was created by Cedarberg Africa, specialist safari operator

We'll design an individual safari just for you so that you get the family safari you've always dreamed of. But without wasting hours of precious time navigating the endless possibilities. If you're looking for an authentic and magical safari experience, Cedarberg Africa can help you.

Have questions? Schedule a time to chat or email us at:

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