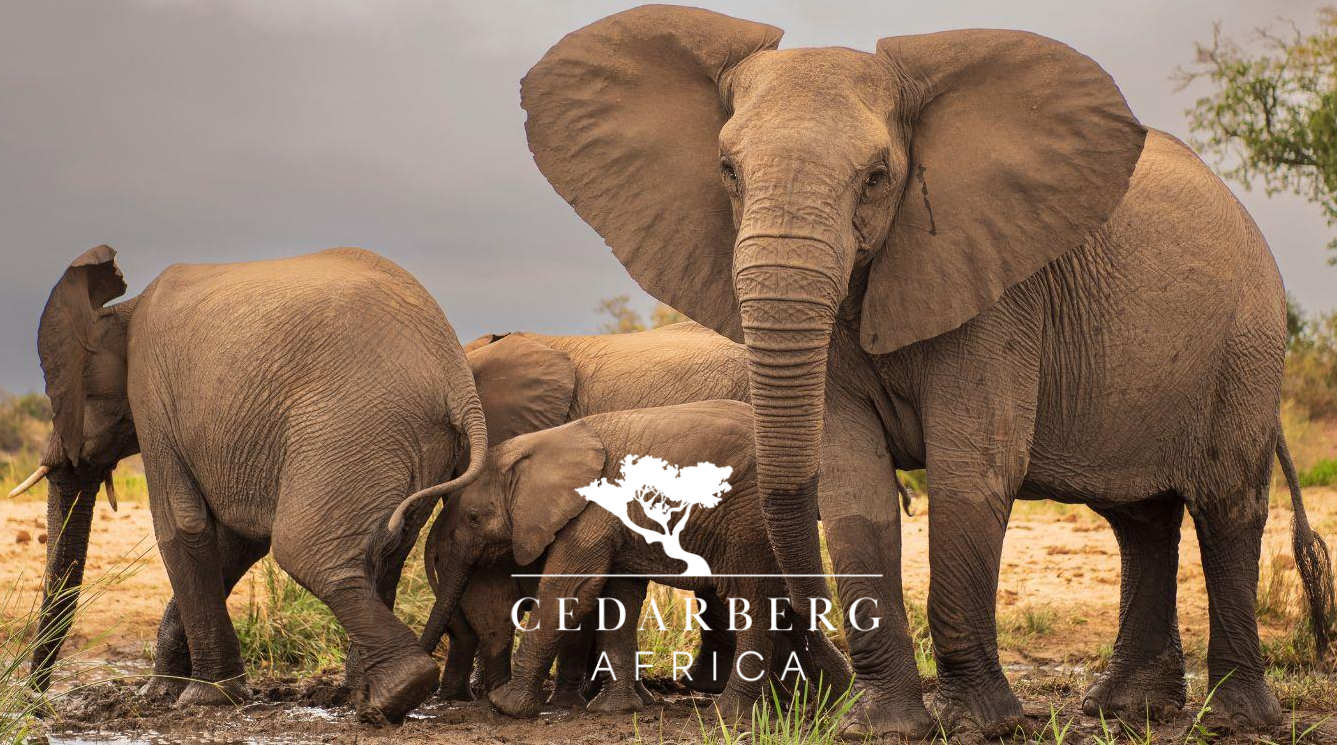


# *Safari Guide*

Everything you want & need to know



  
CEDARBERG  
AFRICA

# Welcome to our safari planning guide!

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With this guide, we try to unlock some of the mystery of booking a safari in Africa. We're here to ensure that the process is pleasurable and easy- and exciting!

For many, seeing wildlife in its natural habitat is the focus of their African trip. The essence of a safari is that you are on the move, staying a few nights in each region to experience a variety of habitats which result in diverse wildlife.

For others, the game-viewing safari is but one part of a more general interest holiday.

Either way, it's important to not rush a safari, to allow enough time to appreciate an area and to get the most from your specialist guide.

*Our focus is on tailor-made safaris: designing a hand-crafted safari after careful discussion with you.*

# The experience

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- How the Guide works
- What makes a good safari
- 1st time visitors & returning adventurers
- Where and when to travel
- How much to spend
- How long to spend
- Number of travelers
- Mode of travel
- Types of accommodation
- When to book
- Why use a safari specialist?
- How to plan a tailor-made safari
- Special Interests & Occasions
- Next steps





# How the Guide works

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In this guide we'll be outlining and answering the key questions you may have. The *real* things you are asking as you are thinking about your safari.

We'll provide links to some of our website pages or blog articles to give you more detail.

We also list a number of Special Interests and occasions towards the end which you can dip into



# What makes a good safari ?

## Factors to consider

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### Different habitats

The essence of a good safari is that you are on the move, staying a few nights in each region to experience a variety of habitats which result in diverse wildlife.

### Exclusivity

You also don't want to share the experience with the world and their dog. You want quality wildlife sightings, in a small vehicle or with fewer people, accompanied by an expert guide.

### Deeper understanding

For many, seeing wildlife in its natural habitat is the focus of their African trip. But you don't just want to tick the animal sightings off a list. You want to understand how African wildlife live together in a holistic balance.

### Decent length of time

While you want to make sure you don't miss anything, it's equally important to not RUSH a safari, to allow enough time to appreciate an area and to get the most from your guide's expertise. And, of course, to spend an afternoon or two by the pool or enjoying the sights of the animals at the waterhole.

Enjoy our insightful article - [A Day on Safari](#)

# First-time Safari Visitors

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The safari world can feel daunting. So many destinations, so many options, such a wide variation in pricing. It is difficult to know where to start.

## **Here are a few things to think about:**

Where do you want to go?

What is the best time for you to travel?

What does your budget look like?

How do you want get around?

What kind of places do you want to stay at?

When do you need to book to ensure you experience everything you want?

Who is travelling with you?

Are there any special interests or health concerns you need to take into account ?

All of these elements are exactly why working with a safari planning expert is a useful way of planning your safari.





# Returning Adventurers

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So, you've been to Africa a couple of times. Now you want to stretch your boundaries further. Each country is so different that there are always new regions to explore.

Tell us where you have been before in Africa. What you liked about it, and what you didn't. This is helpful for us to know what regions to recommend you explore next!

Don't expect to have the same experience in two completely different countries. Some countries may offer authentic encounters with agricultural tribal groups. But another country may be more Westernised. Whatever your desire is for your second foray into Africa, we've got suggestions to suit your needs.



# Where to travel to ?

It's almost impossible to recommend one wildlife region above another – each has its own unique charms, 'special' animals and outstanding guides. We're here to suggest and guide you to discover the regions best suited to your dreams



For first-time visitors, we highly recommend considering South Africa, Tanzania, or Kenya for their rich cultural experiences, diverse wildlife, and stunning landscapes. Each country offers unique adventures, from the iconic safaris in the Serengeti to the vibrant city life of Cape Town.

*South Africa is a varied country, offering many delights beyond a safari experience, like beaches, award-winning wine and culinary encounters and more. Its also a great option for self-drive holidays*



# Follow your passion



## **Wildebeest Migration**

Tanzania or Kenya

## **Primarily Safari Focused Trip**

Botswana, Zimbabwe,  
Zambia

## **Gorilla Trekking**

Rwanda or Uganda

## **Best of Bush & Beach**

Tanzania, Kenya, South  
Africa, Zambia and  
Malawi

## **Unique Scenery**

Namibia, Madagascar,  
Rwanda

## **Indian Ocean Island Add-ons**

Mauritius, Mozambique  
and Seychelles

# When to travel?

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This is intrinsically related to whether a safari is the primary reason for your holiday.

Typically, in both Southern & East Africa, game-viewing is best in the dry months.

**Southern Africa - winter and spring months of June through to October**

**East Africa – two rainy seasons with a drier climate in between.**

*June to mid-October and then December to mid-March*

## **Why we recommend the dry season for your safari.**

Animals need water and food. During the dry season there's less surface water and the vegetation is sparser, so animals are easier to spot especially around the remaining water sources. It's also a pleasant climate for game viewing with warm sunny (rather than scorching) days.

But we do understand that there may be other reasons for your travel timing that conflict with this, like escaping the chill of the northern hemisphere winter. This particularly goes for South Africa.

Keep in mind that there are often great slightly off-season specials available, should your dates be flexible.

[Best time for a safari in East Africa.](#)

[Best time for a safari in in Southern Africa](#)

# Mow much to spend ?

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This can be a hard question to answer as ideally you don't want to skimp. Most safaris probably cost more than you want to spend at first glance.

We've outlined some helpful information below:

- South Africa and Namibia probably give you the best value for money (as priced in Rands)
- Botswana, Kenya and Tanzania are the most expensive
- Rwanda is generally priced higher than Uganda due to the higher Gorilla permit price
- Zambia and Zimbabwe are great alternatives to Botswana, due to the slightly lower price point

To help out, we've created this useful guide to assist you, dive into our [Safari Pricing guide](#).





# How long to spend ?

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We recommend a minimum 10 - 12 nights in the country – given the cost and time to get to Africa, you want to make the most of it all, once you're here.

If you are visiting South Africa or Namibia for a varied trip, or if you want to do both safari and beach, then we recommend a minimum of 10-12 nights.

Ideally, we recommend 12 -14 nights for the complete safari experience.

If you are retired, or have generous leave, we recommend spending 2½ to 3 weeks.

If your focus is purely on a safari experience, 6-8 nights can work.

Overall, we recommend focusing on fewer destinations and having at least 2-3 nights in each, to minimize wasted travel time.



# Travel Tips



Try to minimize travelling days by reducing the need for internal scheduled flights.

A light charter flight will use up less time than scheduled flights.

Self-drive usually needs a little more time than private touring, so its all up to balancing your time vs cost.

Given that some lodges and hotels offer long stay offers, you may find that those extra nights don't add substantially to the cost - and often staying longer can include benefits like complimentary intra-lodge transfers. All the more reason to work with safari experts!

# Number of travelers

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We have welcomed couples, families, and friends travelling together. Increasingly, we work with multi-generational families - three or more generations all coming together to explore, reconnect and enjoy the beauty of Africa.

## Here are some considerations to be aware of:

**Couples** – Everything is on offer. However, some specialist private touring can be expensive for only a couple.

**Family** – Check out our [Family Travel](#) pages and our [Articles on Family Safaris](#).

**Two Couples** – this works very well. Private touring is less expensive, and many lodges offer two-bedroom villas with identical en-suite bedrooms.

**Multi-Generational families** – we see an increasing number of Multi-Generational families. A Private Villa or Safari House works very well. But often budget and a suitable range of activities also needs to be considered. Its also useful to know which lodges allow kids over 6, which over 12 and so on. And where the adults can enjoy a break while the young ones enjoy informative, supervised activities on offer at the lodge. And where a private vehicle is the best option so you can enjoy the safari at your own pace.





# Mode of Travel

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This will also impact the cost of your safari so consider how you want to get around

- Fly-in Safaris
- Private Touring
- Luxury Self-drive (South Africa & Namibia – mainly in the non safari areas)
- Scheduled tours
- *A mix of the above*

Take a look at our article;

[Mode of Safari Travel](#)



# Accommodation Types

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Crisp linen sheets with three-digit thread count, or relaxed, family style accommodation.

Our Safari experts pick only the best of all worlds, so you can choose the style that best suits you.

- Classic Hotels
- Boutique Guest Lodges
- Traditional Safari Lodges
  - Tented Camps
  - Bush Camps
  - Mobile Safaris

[Take a look at our Safari Accommodation page](#)



# When to Book

Aim for at least **3 - 6 months in advance**, or even more if you want to go to a very popular area in peak season.

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**8 -12 months** – You want to go to a popular area or in peak season. Or if you have specific places that you'd like to stay. Some places get booked up almost a year ahead.

**4 -8 months** – This is the most common booking period. Most places are available. But you may not always get your first choice. It pays to be a little flexible on dates if you want a specific lodge.

**2 - 4 months** – Not recommended for the peak season such as July to October or Christmas. But should be possible in quieter months. Don't expect the most well-known and popular lodges to have space, however an experienced safari Specialist like us will know of good substitutions.

**Less than a month** – Surprisingly, a good option as you don't have time to get lost in the options! Not every lodge will be available but if you are flexible, this can work for your safari plans.

No matter when you book, you will always receive all of the Cedarberg Africa team's expertise at no extra cost.



# Why use a safari Specialist ?



*We're so glad you asked!*

## Save hours of research

Plus – by using a safari specialist – you've saved hours & hours of your time trying to compare lodges, cross referencing review sites, looking at endless pictures of rooms.

## First-hand Experience

Our team frequently travels to all our recommended hotels and lodges- this way we can suggest the best accommodation and experiences, because we *really* know all the details

## We are there if things go awry

If you book online, you are on your own if things go wrong. If you book with a safari specialist, we are here to help you. Cedarberg Africa has a duty manager on hand 24/7 to assist with any issues.

## All of our expertise at no extra cost

We receive lower *wholesale* rates from the game lodges and hotels. So we make our money on the difference between our Wholesale Rates and the retail prices you see on a website or the online booking portals. The result is a price which is very similar to the one that you would pay if you had tried to do it all by yourself, but without the personal insight we bring to the table.

# How the process works

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## **The Start**

You complete our enquiry form, email or phone us.

This starts a conversation, either over the phone, video call or via email.

## **The Chat**

Tell us what you want to see, where you want to go, what you don't want to miss!

Even if you are still unsure about your plans, we find a quick phone call can help to point you in the right direction. We'll chat with you about where you want to go, your accommodation preferences, how active you wish to be, any special interests, how you want to travel, and what memories you are hoping to bring back from your trip.

## **The Tailor-made Proposal**

We start presenting some ideas, often via a digital itinerary. This is usually shared with you within 24 hours.

## **The Budget**

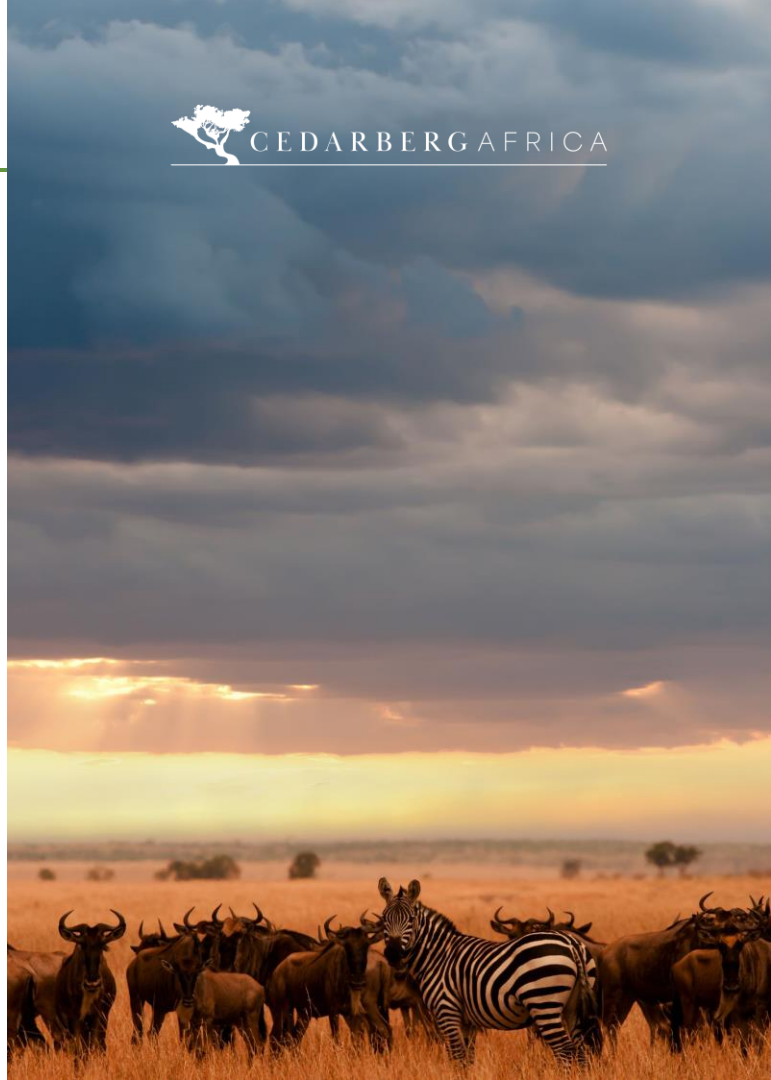
At this point we start talking about how much you want to spend, so that we can offer you an itinerary which is in the right ball-park.

## **The Last Details**

This is where we make the final tweaks to your itinerary until it is just right!

## **The Real Fun Begins**

Its booking time! Now your dream starts to feel like reality as we book your perfect safari!



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*If I have ever seen magic, it  
has been in Africa*

Hemingway



CEDARBERG AFRICA



# *Meet the team*



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