

Prepare your hunting Safari

Order your trip

Going on safari is an expensive adventure, ordering on time (one year ahead) will help to do some savings.

In order to enjoy your trip at most it is essential to work with a recognized outfitter.

It is advised to book your flights well ahead in order to have the most interesting rates.

In case you have connections flight from your local airport to an International Airport while flying to your destination make sure they are all booked at the same company.

This will avoid a lot of trouble with your firearms. For check-in with your rifles go at least 2 h before flight. Some European airliners haven't got a lot of hunters as passengers and are not used to handle the firearms. It can take some time.

Make sure you also book a trip cancellation insurance

Local flights can be booked at a local company.

The ideal period for hunting in Africa is the African autumn and winter (spring and summer in the northern hemisphere).

What to book?

Flights domestic, international and local.

Accommodation, Professional hunter and trackers/skinners

Transport between airport and hunting grounds and/or a car rental (4x4 is advised, this trip is mostly offered by outfitter)

Further touristic travel and game parks entrances

Fitness

Hunting in the bush requires a good condition. Walks of more than 25km a day are common and this in temperatures above 30°C. Start training at least 3 months ahead, with daily walks of more than 5km. Use a loaded backpack and a replacement for your rifle during these walks. If you leave Europe early in the season it will still be cold and Africa will be hot a thermal shock is possible. Going to a solar center or take a few days to acclimatize are strongly encouraged.

Marksmanship

For African hunting larger calibre rifles are used, for the big five at least a 375 H&H is legally required. Practicing on a regularly base will help you control the rifle. Make yourself confident in shooting the 3 positions with your rifle : standing, prone and laying if possible. Remember a lot of shooting is done from shooting sticks or by using a tree or bush as a rest. Buy a book on shot placement and study by kind of animals.

Medical preparation

Make sure your health is ok before leaving.

Some African countries require vaccination. Check the local requirements!

At least an year ahead take contact with your doctor or your local Tropical Institute for your vaccination program.

Paperwork

International Certificate of Vaccination - see vaccination program.

European Gun License with your hunting rifle registered - make your application at least 3 months ahead.

A temporary export license is sometimes required - check your local authority 3 months ahead.

Inform your airliner you will be travelling with firearms at least 6 weeks prior by mail.

Passport and visa - passport must be valid more than 3 months.

Make sure you have a letter of invitation from your outfitter.

Print the papers required for your local gun permit application.

Cites permit when hunting on Big Five

Travel documents and itinerary

Luggage

Clothing:

A pair of walked-in safari boots with gaiters

A pair of slippers for relaxing at the lodge

Cotton socks

Short and long pants

Safari shirts

Light jacket, fleece or pully for during the evenings (it can be cold)

Cotton scarf to protect your neck from the sun

Hat

Toiletry bag with content

!For the plains khaki can be used for the bush use darker color !

Swimming gear

REMARK: Pack for at least one day of clothing in your hand luggage in case your luggage is lost.

Hunting gear:

Hunting belt

Binoculars (smaller ones for in the bush)

Knife

Bullet pouch as recommended for your type of rifle

<https://www.safarisupplies.eu/hunting-gear>

Lens cleanser for scope and binocular

Cleaning kit for your rifle and gun oil

Firearms and ammunition:

A rifle suitable for your hunt with a descent scope and mount (if used). Make sure your gun is in proper working condition and inspected by a gun smith.

A impact resistant case. Nanuk cases are ideal.

Proper ammunition for your rifle and the type of hunting. Your outfitter will help you if needed. Take at least 100 bullets for planes game hunting.

Some countries will require to pack your ammo in a separate case. Nanuk has smaller cases for your ammunition.

REMARK! Airliners demand to pack your ammunition separately from your rifles (2 separate packaging) , in this case the will be regarded as one for excess baggage. Don't forget when paying for your excess luggage at the service desk.

Other:

Medicines

Sun crème and after sun

Sun glasses

Camera

Spare batteries for your camera

Spare memory stick

Hunting book,...