



# FAQ

Going on a luxury safari in Africa is an exciting adventure, but there are several key things travelers often ask about before embarking on such a trip. Here are some frequently asked questions (FAQ) to help you prepare:

## 1. What countries offer luxury safaris in Africa?

- **Popular countries** for luxury safaris include:
  - **Kenya:** Famous for the Maasai Mara and its Great Migration.
  - **Tanzania:** Known for Serengeti National Park and Ngorongoro Crater.
  - **South Africa:** Home to Kruger National Park and private game reserves.
  - **Botswana:** Renowned for the Okavango Delta and Chobe National Park.
  - **Namibia:** Famous for the stark beauty of the Namib Desert and Etosha National Park.
  - **Zimbabwe & Zambia:** Known for Victoria Falls and Lower Zambezi National Park.
  - **Rwanda & Uganda:** Best for gorilla trekking in the Virunga Mountains.

## 2. When is the best time to go on a luxury safari?

- **Dry Season (June–October):** This is the peak season for wildlife viewing as animals gather around waterholes. It's ideal for the Great Migration in Kenya and Tanzania.
- **Green Season (November–May):** Also known as the wet season, there are fewer tourists, but it's great for birdwatching, and the landscape is lush. Prices might be lower, and there are often newborn animals.

## 3. What type of accommodation is provided on a luxury safari?

- **Luxury safari lodges:** Spacious rooms, gourmet dining, private game drives, and sometimes plunge pools or spas.
- **Tented camps:** These are upscale, permanent tents with en-suite bathrooms, high-end furnishings, and all modern amenities while offering a closer-to-nature feel.
- **Private villas or exclusive-use properties:** Perfect for families or groups seeking privacy with personalized services.

## 4. What kind of animals can I expect to see?

- **The Big Five:** Lions, leopards, elephants, rhinos, and buffalo are the most sought-after species.
- **Other wildlife:** Giraffes, zebras, cheetahs, wildebeest, hippos, crocodiles, antelope, and a variety of birds.

- **Unique species:** Depending on the region, you may see species like African wild dogs, oryx, or mountain gorillas (especially in Uganda and Rwanda).

## 5. What activities are available beyond game drives?

- **Walking safaris:** Led by expert guides, this is a chance to explore on foot and see smaller flora and fauna.
- **Hot air balloon rides:** A popular option for viewing wildlife from above, especially in Kenya and Tanzania.
- **Gorilla trekking:** Available in Uganda and Rwanda for an up-close encounter with endangered mountain gorillas.
- **Cultural experiences:** Visits to Maasai, Samburu, or other indigenous communities to learn about their culture.
- **Photographic safaris:** Many lodges offer specialized tours for photographers.
- **Water-based activities:** In places like Botswana's Okavango Delta, you can enjoy boat safaris or mokoro (traditional canoe) rides.

## 6. How much does a luxury safari cost?

- **Luxury safaris** range from \$500 to over \$3,000 per person per night, depending on the country, season, and level of exclusivity.
- Costs often include accommodation, meals, game drives, and other activities, but may exclude international flights, tips, and certain optional experiences.

## 7. Is it safe to go on a safari?

- **Safety on safari:** Luxury safari lodges have experienced guides and rangers who ensure the safety of guests. Animals are used to safari vehicles and typically do not pose a threat as long as guides' instructions are followed.
- **Political safety:** Check travel advisories for the specific country you're visiting, though most safari destinations are stable and well-secured.
- **Health safety:** Take precautions against mosquitoes and sun exposure. Drink bottled water and eat in reputable lodges.

## 8. Are safaris suitable for children?

- Yes, safaris are suitable for children. However, there are factors which be considered.
  - Traveling for long periods of time can be tiring for younger children. Specifically Tanzania if traveling in a vehicle between the reserves.
  - Most lodges insist on a private vehicle if there are young children so as not to disturb other guests. This increases the cost.
  - The parents are responsible for controlling / monitoring their children. In wildlife areas children cannot be left to walk / run around the lodge, and must sit still and quiet in the vehicle when close to be game.
- Family-friendly lodges may have specific activities for children such as 'junior ranger' programs and childminders. Accommodation is often in the form of 2 bedroom suites.

## 9. What should I know about tipping and gratuities?

- **Tipping guidelines:** Many safari lodges have tipping suggestions, but it's generally expected to tip your guides, trackers, and lodge staff. Plan for around \$10–\$20 per day for guides and trackers, and \$5–\$10 per day for lodge staff.

## 10. Will I have internet or mobile service?

- **Connectivity:** Many luxury lodges offer Wi-Fi, though it may be limited or slower due to remote locations. Use this time as a digital detox if possible.
- **Mobile service:** Some areas have decent service, but it's best not to rely on it.

## 11. Do I need travel insurance for a luxury safari?

- **Travel insurance** is highly recommended, particularly for medical emergencies, trip cancellations, or lost luggage. Look for policies that cover remote destinations and activities like walking safaris.

By addressing these FAQs, you can better prepare for an unforgettable luxury safari experience.

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