



ENCOMPASS
AFRICA

SAFARI LIFE

What to expect

A close-up, high-resolution photograph of a lion's face, showing its eye, whiskers, and fur texture. The lion is looking slightly to the right. The background is a soft, out-of-focus orange-brown color.

WELCOME

LET'S TALK ABOUT SAFARI LIFE

Safari life can vary from country to country and indeed, camp to camp. So please see this as an overview at this stage. When we prepare your full itinerary, there will be day-by-day descriptions that indicate activities, start and finish times and so forth.

At any stage of our concept process, if you are not happy with the pace, duration of drives or activities it is important that you let us know. We want to ensure we design you the ultimate safari holiday that's effortless and enjoyable not tiring and stressful!

A TYPICAL DAY

Essentially a day revolves around the need to see wildlife at its most active. It usually follows a similar routine with slight variations between destinations and seasons. Meticulously planned to coincide with wildlife, you can expect early mornings, late afternoons and sometimes evening safari activities.

DAY IN THE LIFE



EARLY MORNINGS

To get out amongst the wilderness and see wildlife waking, you have to also get up early! This is usually anytime between 5am and 6am. Great news is your dawn will be heralded within with a 'knock knock' wake up call and tea, coffee and biscuits served either to your tent or in the main area. Ensure you have warm clothes (like an onion, have layers that can be taken off as the day warms), your camera, hat and sunglasses.

Mornings are the best time to spot wildlife as the temperature is cool and the animals are still very active, including the big cats that will be returning from a night of hunting and prowling. Depending on where you are, activities range from 4x4 game drives, walking safaris to boating and canoeing.

Important to note: If you have dietary requirements, it is crucial we know because snacks are provided on all activities and we would hate for you to miss out! After a few hours on safari, you will stop for a bush break that is usually somewhere scenic with drinks and snacks provided. Sometimes you even turn up to a hearty bush breakfast in a remote, stunning location! It's then time to head back to camp for breakfast/brunch (if it wasn't a full bush breakfast) and some time to now relax, escaping the heat of the day.

Equally important to note: not all camps have fans or air conditioning. So if you struggle with heat and are planning to travel in summer please let us know so we can ensure the camps we choose have a cooling system suitable and a pool for that immediate relief.



DAY IN THE LIFE

LUNCH & EARLY AFTERNOONS



Most times, this is enjoyed at the camp or lodge so you can relax, utilise facilities and amenities such as pool, hammocks or similar. You might have something to eat and drink at around 3pm before heading out for another game drive. Afternoons offer fantastic lighting and wildlife is again becoming more active as the day cools.

Important to note: Some guests get bored easily and want things to do. If this is the case you must let us know before we book properties because not all offer extra activities. You can do things like village visits, spa treatments and so forth from some properties.



DAY IN THE LIFE

EARLY EVENINGS



As with early morning, the early evening game drive is when wildlife really come into their own.

The predators are stirring from their slumber and the prey become active and alert as darkness gradually falls and they endure another nervous night in the wild.

You'll usually return just before dark in time for a shower, pre dinner drinks and then dinner.

If wildlife is absolutely exciting, you may stay out longer so we recommend taking warm clothes with you.

Dinner will be pushed back so you don't miss out and instead can focus on the wildlife. Return to camp for dinner and then share stories and a few drinks around the campfire with fellow guests.

Important to note: Once it is getting dark, your guide cannot stop for any bush loo relief.

So please ensure you stop before the sunsets too far otherwise you'll be holding on for quite a while before returning to camp.



DAY IN THE LIFE

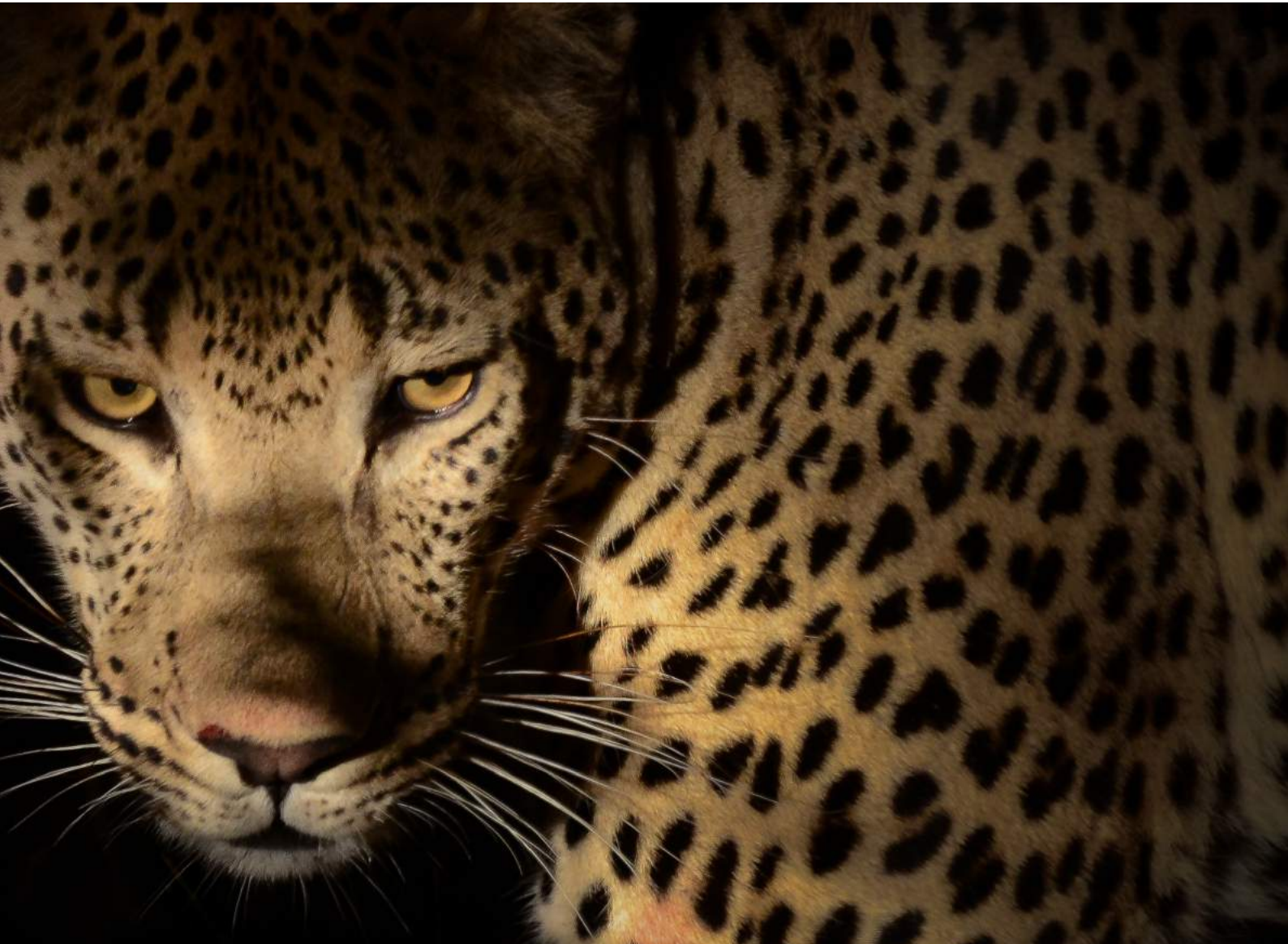
NIGHT TIME



In private reserves, you will be offered the unique opportunity to head out on full night time game drive.

Vehicles are equipped with spotlights and expert trackers who can amazingly spot wildlife that the average person's naked eye would completely miss! It is night time you'll spot creatures such as chameleon, owls, leopard to name a few. It is a completely different perspective of Africa's bush and rounds off your experience beautifully.

Important to note: Nights can be cold and slow in terms of animal action. It's more about the serenity of night, the sounds and spotting the nocturnal creatures. It's always great to experience at least one night drive.



DAY IN THE LIFE



FULL DAYS

There are some fantastic full day safari opportunities in countries across Africa. We recommend Kenya's Masai Mara and the Serengeti in Tanzania. These wilderness areas are abundant with wildlife and of course the Great Wildebeest Migration at certain times of the year. Etosha National Park in Namibia is the ultimate for waterhole watching all day.

If you are self driving in South Africa, head out for a full day safari in the Kruger National Park or Eastern Cape.

When we plan your holiday, let your specialist know if a full day safari is of interest. You head out with picnic basket packed for lunch and cameras fully charged!



DAY IN THE LIFE

CHECKING OUT AND IN



On the days you are checking out from one camp and moving to another, you usually enjoy a morning game drive, breakfast and then transfer to the next destination.

If it is a driving safari in East Africa with your own guide, lunch will be a picnic that was packed that morning and you stop somewhere scenic enroute to your next destination.

If you are flying from one place to the next, we will ensure that you arrive in time to have lunch or afternoon tea before you head out on your next safari activity in the afternoon.

If you are leaving a safari region and going to a town, you may or may not have a last morning activity. That will depend on a few factors like transfer times, duration of drive ahead, your budget and so forth.

We provide you with a full PDF itinerary and detailed day by day information to ensure a smooth and effortless experience!



SAFARI KNOWING



A FEW THINGS WILL GET YOU FAR

NEVER COMPULSORY

Whilst there are activities morning and afternoon, sometimes night they are never compulsory for you. It can be tiring on safari and we totally understand the importance of sleep.

If you prefer one morning to miss the activity and simply enjoy watching the world wake from camp, please let your camp manager know the night prior so you don't get the early wake up call or knock knock on the door.

REST OR PLAY IN THE HEAT OF THE DAY

In between activities you have time to rest or do something else that may be on offer from camp. So you can either have a sleep in your room, hang out in the main area, by the pool and watch wildlife wander by or take part in optional activities on offer like village visits or spa treatments. These vary from place to place so we will indicate what is available for you to enjoy at each property.



SAFARI KNOWING



A FEW THINGS WILL GET YOU FAR

RELIEF FROM THE HEAT

Many properties are solar run, so there won't be air conditioners and heaters. If you struggle with heat or cold, please let us know. If it's essential to have a fan, air conditioner or swimming pool, please be sure to let your specialist know in the initial planning stages.

DRESS LIKE AN ONION

Layers is the way we dress when on safari. Morning and nights can be cold and by the time you are finished a morning safari activity, the sun is up and heat is on! So you can go from a fleece jumper and beanie to a singlet in 4 hours.

DRINK DRINK DRINK

It is really important to stay hydrated. Never underestimate the heat of the African sun. Water is always available in camp and in transfer vehicles. Whilst staff may forget to offer, it is there for your convenience so simply ask.

DRIVE OR FLY?

There are some areas in Africa like Namibia, Kenya and the Northern Tanzania circuit that are offered as private 4x4 safaris with your own guide and vehicle or you can fly between destinations with shorter road transfers. There are pros and cons for each. It comes down to a number of things:

1. your budget
2. your preferred travel mode
3. how you cope in 4x4 vehicles on bumpy, sometimes dusty roads
4. whether you want to see rural and village life along the way

So please ensure you are open and frank with your specialist about your preferences. Of course we will do our best to create the most outstanding and comfortable safari – it may just come down to a few extra pennies if you wish to fly between locations to reduce time and backache.



WHAT'S ON OFFER



IMAGINE IF YOU COULD DO EVERYTHING FIRST TIME

SAFARI DIVERSITY

You can get close to wildlife on safari in multiple ways. So keep in mind what you'd like to do and be sure to chat with your specialist so we can include everything:

4x4 game drives

walking safaris

horseback safaris (advanced riders in most destinations, some take beginners where there are no predators)

canoeing and kayaking safaris (weather and water dependent)

boating and fishing safaris

helicopter safaris (limited locations)

mountain biking safaris (limited locations)

microlight safaris (limited locations)

and many more...

BEYOND THE WILDLIFE SAFARI

Africa offers more than just wildlife safaris. So what would reward you most whilst in Africa? Beyond the wilderness and wildlife there is a myriad of options. Do you wish for an insight into the history of the land, its cultures and people? Or are you passionate about wildlife conservation and community sustainability? Check out our 'Beyond the Safari' magazine.



SAFARI READY?

We are here to help



WHY ENCOMPASS AFRICA

FIVE REASONS WHY

Travel with the best when you go to Africa



We put in the TIME



Service encompasses EVERYTHING



We CARE



Photos courtesy of our Guests and Staff.



ENCOMPASS
AFRICA

SAFARI READY?

We are here to help.

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