



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

SOUTH AFRICA: FUR AND FEATHERS

GETTING THERE

How do I book this tour?

Booking is very easy! Simply follow the booking procedure by clicking on "SECURE YOUR PLACE". This will take you to the product page where you can reserve your place by paying a DEPOSIT. Alternatively, please contact us by email using info@victor-soares.com. You will receive a confirmation of your booking and any queries will be dealt with using the e-mail you provide. Online, all major credit cards and paypal are accepted and there may be a small fee to pay for using this service.

Where will we meet?

We will meet at either OR Tambo International Airport or at Hoedspruit Airport (HDS), where our adventure begins. This will depend on your flight into South Africa and will be clarified before your departure.

What flights do I take?

There are a range of flights available, depending on where you are travelling from. If you need help selecting a flight that coincides with the tour, please reach us by email at info@victor-soares.com.

NOTE: it is vital that you take the correct connecting flights that will ensure a proper beginning to the tour - please let us help you book this flight.

Do I need a visa for South Africa?

Your Country / Passport Type	Visa Required?	Notes
Australia, Canada, Germany, UK, USA, etc.	Not for short stays	Visa-free for up to 90 days (some as low as 30 days depending on country)
Malaysia, Turkey, Zambia, others	Not for short stays	Typically visa-free up to 30 days
Most other countries	Visa required	Must apply in advance—no visa on arrival

To enter South Africa, ensure you have:

- **Passport Validity:** A passport valid for at least 30 days beyond your intended departure date from South Africa.
- **Blank Passport Pages:** At least two blank pages in your passport for entry and exit stamps.
- **Proof of Onward or Return Travel,** such as a flight itinerary.
- **Sufficient Funds:** Proof of sufficient financial means to support yourself during your stay. ⓘ
- **Yellow Fever Vaccination Certificate:** Required if you're arriving from or transiting through a country with a risk of yellow fever transmission.

For the most accurate and up-to-date information, consult the South African Department of Home Affairs or the South African Embassy or Consulate in your country.

Do I need to hire a car?

For the duration of this tour, there is no requirement for a vehicle, all is catered for.

Do I need to take Malaria medication?

The Greater Kruger National Park is a malaria risk area, especially during the wet summer season (September to May). While the risk is lower in winter (June to August), it is not zero year-round.

What is the luggage restriction?

Luggage restrictions vary depending on your travel arrangements. Please enquire with your travel companies and agencies.

Packing guidelines

Pack this in your hand luggage so it can't get lost:

- Binoculars – don't leave home without them!!!
- A digital camera with spare batteries, battery charger and plenty of memory cards.
- Your personal medication/prescriptions – replacing these in South Africa is not always possible.



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In October, there is some rain and it is generally warm, so don't bring too much cold weather and waterproof clothing. It can get quite hot during the day so light summer clothing is also a must. The best way to deal with the weather is to dress in layers. However, the sun can be hot and burn so don't forget your sun hat and sun screen!

WHILE IN SOUTH AFRICA

What will the weather be like?

In October, Kruger National Park experiences the start of the rainy season and warmer temperatures—a great time for wildlife viewing as animals are still concentrated around water sources, and the landscape begins to green up.

October in Kruger National Park (Spring)

- Warmer temperatures (often 30°C+ during the day)
- First rains start, but it's not yet fully wet season
- Bush is still fairly open, great for game viewing
- Breeding season begins for many animals and birds

So, October is a transitional, active, and rewarding time to visit Kruger—just be prepared for both sun and the chance of rain.

What can I expect on a typical day?

A typical day on safari in a Private Game Reserve:

- Start with a gentle wake-up call and a light snack of coffee, tea, and rusks to start the day.
- As the bush awakens, guests head out on a morning game drive.
- After a few hours exploring the reserve, guests return to the lodge for a hearty breakfast and some well-earned relaxation.
- Midday is a time for rest—whether by the pool, in the spa, or on a private deck—before enjoying a light lunch.

- In the late afternoon, another game drive departs, ending with a sundowner: drinks and snacks enjoyed in the open bush as the sun sets.
- After dark, guests return to camp for a gourmet dinner.
- Evenings are peaceful, filled with the sounds of the African night, and bedtime comes early in preparation for another day of thrilling wildlife encounters.

What kinds of animals will we see?

You can expect to see an incredible variety of wildlife, including the famous Big Five—lion, leopard, elephant, buffalo, and rhinoceros. The reserve is especially renowned for its high leopard population, so sightings of these elusive cats are quite common. You'll also likely encounter herds of elephants roaming the bush, prides of lions lounging in the shade, and large buffalo groups grazing. Other impressive mammals include cheetahs, wild dogs, hyenas, hippos, and crocodiles near waterholes and rivers.

Birdlife is abundant too, with species like fish eagles, kingfishers, and lilac-breasted rollers adding vibrant colour to the landscape. Antelope species such as impala, kudu, sable, and waterbuck are frequently seen, as well as smaller creatures like warthogs, mongooses, and a variety of reptiles.

Every drive presents the chance to witness amazing wildlife moments.

Do I need to be very fit?

There is no upper age limit for participating in this trip; however, please be aware that a basic level of mobility and fitness is necessary if you wish to partake in guided walks. Other than that, we will be climbing on and off the safari vehicle and you will have to raise your cup or glass to your lips! That's about it!



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What is the standard accepted tipping procedure for South Africa?

In South African safari lodges like those in Kruger's Timbavati, tipping is customary and appreciated, but it's always discretionary based on the quality of service. Here's the general guideline:

- Guides and Trackers: Usually tipped between \$15 to \$25 (USD) per person per day. You can tip the guide and tracker separately or together, depending on the lodge's setup.
- Lodge Staff: For housekeeping, waitstaff, and other lodge personnel, a daily tip of around \$5 to \$10 per person is common.

Many lodges have a tipping box at reception where you can leave a lump sum, and the management distributes it among staff, but direct tipping to guides and trackers is often preferred.

It's best to tip in cash (USD, Euros, or South African Rand) at the end of your stay. If you want, we can help you calculate the total expected tip based on your trip length and group size!

Should I bring any money with me?

It is generally not necessary to bring money with you on these trips, as they are fully inclusive. However, if you wish to leave a tip for your guide and crew, you may want to have some cash on hand. For those extending their trip, or wishing to visit craft markets, you might want to make purchases. In such cases, bringing US Dollars is advisable as it is widely accepted and can be easily exchanged in towns.

THE ACCOMMODATION

Do you cater for vegetarians and other dietary requirements?

We do indeed cater for vegetarians and other dietary requirements. We kindly request that you inform us of any specific needs or allergies at the time of booking.

This allows us ample time to tailor the menu to your preferences.

Do I need to bring my own towel, linen and toiletries?

You **do not** need to bring your own towels or linen, as the lodge provides both bath and hand towels, along with all necessary linen during your safari with us. However, guests are advised to bring their own personal toiletries.

What type of accommodation can I expect?

Umlani is an off-the-grid, eco-conscious bush camp designed to immerse you fully in the wilderness. The site was created in a traditional African style, using natural, locally sourced materials like reed and thatch, so the camp blends seamlessly into its surroundings. Accommodation is usually in chalets.

Camp Facilities

Beyond your hut, Umlani offers several communal spaces to relax and connect with nature:

- A deck and bush bar overlooking a watering hole and riverbed—great for wildlife watching close to camp.
- A traditional boma (campfire dining area) for memorable social evenings.
- A swimming pool with hammocks for cooling off midday and relaxing.
- A small curio/gift shop for safari mementos.
- Optional treehouse sleepouts, located a couple of kilometres from camp, for a night under the stars.

If I am a single traveller; will I have to share my tent?

There are single room rates for solo travellers, which generally reflects a modest premium over shared pricing. Should this not be available or if you prefer not to pay the premium, then you will be expected to share



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a room with other same-sex single travellers, but you will have your own twin bed.

PHOTOGEAR

What camera and lenses will we need or are recommended?

Any telephoto lens will work. Anything from a 70-200 to a 600 prime is welcome and will meet your needs. However, this tour allows you to get quite close to some of the more sought-after species so you may not be struggling for reach. Photography however is a very personal thing so it is probably best to understand your expectations to accurately advise you on what will work for you.

Is a tripod necessary?

A tripod is not specifically required but some people prefer to work with one, so again this depends on you. A monopod is another good option to consider. We will however, be shooting from a moving vehicle and a tripod may be cumbersome and a nuisance so in our experience, a beanbag is the favoured option. For any landscape or astrophotography, a tripod will however be invaluable.

Will I be able to charge batteries?

Yes, you can charge batteries while on safari. However, please note that South Africa uses type-M (three large round pins in a triangular pattern). The voltage is 230VAC and the Frequency is 50Hz.