

## **Safari Do's & Don'ts on Safari**

A safari in Africa sounds exotic, no doubt, but you do realize that there is a 'code' to be followed, invisible even if it is...It is a code that every traveler must hold sacred, because when you go out into the heart of wilderness, you can't afford to insult these sacred rules...to make the most of your trip, do remember that it depends on how well you adapt to the African wildlife...and for that, you have to follow some of the "golden rules" while on an African Safari.....

It is imperative that you observe general wildlife safety and respect guidelines during your Safari vacation. The following precautions will ensure a pleasant game viewing experience.

### **Safari Do's**

- ❖ Your transportation will always be punctual for the game view drives. Therefore you're advised be on time for the departure of your safari to avoid inconveniencing other clients.
- ❖ When you're on safari, they'll be plenty of photo opportunities. Don't forget to carry a camera. Do make beautiful memories...and capture them for a lifetime worth of memories...
- ❖ Drinking water: Carry adequate water and make sure to drink and carry clean water only.
- ❖ When you're going on safari carry a light bag. In the event that you would like some clothes washed, there are laundry facilities throughout your safari at an extra cost. It is also important to monitor your luggage weight when you returning home from East Africa.
- ❖ What to carry: Sunscreen, caps, hats, raincoats and a small Swiss army knife can prove very handy out in the wild...even in the face of adversity.
- ❖ Travel Necessities: Always keep the important documents, like passport, visa, insurance details and currency etc on you! Whether you are travelling with a group or separately, these are indispensable.
- ❖ Health/Medication: Carry your personal meds in case you have some specific allergy, or health issues. Africa is still mosquito ridden and malaria is still the most frequent disease to fell travelers. Make sure to carry anti malaria meds and insect repellents
- ❖ While you are on safari, carry a pair of eye drops or a pair of glasses. These will come in handy because the roads are dusty and they affect visitors who wear contact lens.
- ❖ Keep calm: Under no circumstances should you panic. It makes matters worse. Make sure you don't stray from the pack and stroll off on your own. This is especially true when you are on a walking safari. Even your enthusiasm needs to be kept under wraps, lest it gives you away on a bird-watching or animal watching trail.
- ❖ Keep the Right Company: Stick to your group and guide at all times, and you will be safe.
- ❖ Dress Right: Do wear something that makes you feel comfortable. You are going out into the wilderness, so it is a good idea to wear clothes that cover your legs, you don't want to come in contact with insectivorous shrubs. Wear summer clothing, a light raincoat with proper sun protection.
- ❖ It does get hot when you're on holiday. Therefore we advise you to wear sunscreen, a pair of good sunglasses and a hat. Most lodges, hotels and tented camps have a swimming pool.

- ❖ Packing: Especially if it is a walking safari, make sure you travel light. Just pack the bare essentials, the camp will provide for the rest.

### **Safari Don'ts**

- ❖ You are also advised to not walk in the street of major towns at night. If you have to please take a taxi. In the event that you have to go out, please inform a tour member. Whenever you're out alone use your best judgment.
- ❖ Don't carry your passports, valuables, and money everywhere you go. Check them into the security boxes at the hotels and lodges.
- ❖ When you are taking a stroll, don't exchange money on the street – it is illegal. Always exchange your money in the bank, Forex bureau recommended by your guide for security reasons.
- ❖ Don't be ignorant: Make sure to have at least some amount of know-how about the policies, traditions and key points of the place you are visiting, the local people and the general area.
- ❖ Don't wear something that will attract unwanted attention, and disrupt your fun activities...the animals might give you the slip if you fail to camouflage yourself properly.
- ❖ Don't litter the environment: Take the memories and leave only good deeds behind.
- ❖ Photography: Don't click everything that comes your way, especially local folks, they might not like it... always seek their permission.
- ❖ Don't get too close for comfort: Especially when you are going for a driving safari, keep safe distance from the animals. These are wild animals, unaware of etiquette, training or human touch.
- ❖ Children safety: Keep your kids under control. They are your responsibility. Make sure they do not stray or do something dangerous...
- ❖ Fire or emergency Alert: Do not leave behind any combustibles; it endangers not just humans, but the wildlife too...
- ❖ Respect local customs and traditions: while visiting local communities, remember to be careful not to insult any of their traditions the locals or things that they respect or cherish.

### **When it comes to animals:**

- ❖ Keep safe distance
- ❖ Do not feed them
- ❖ Take care of children when near animals.
- ❖ Make sure you sit on the animal, not hang from it
- ❖ Avoid street hustlers who ask you to donate to any cause.
- ❖ Whenever you're taking pictures, don't take shots of locals with permission. Other subjects you should avoid are the military, policemen in uniform, the President or Government officials.
- ❖ Do not ever try to pose for a photograph with an animal. This is generally the number one cause of fatality and injury during African safaris. Failure to heed the warnings of driver guides, park rangers and posted signs could result in a less than favorable safari experience. Remember that this wildlife is not tamed, and that even the herbivores in this animal kingdom such as an impala or ostrich can be just as menacing as the carnivorous lion when they feel threatened.
- ❖ Do not talk loudly or attempt to gain an animal's attention. It is best to view game in a silent manner so as to avoid scaring the animals away and disrupting their natural biological rhythms.
- ❖ Do not attempt to feed wildlife. This rule especially pertains to activities near lodges where monkeys and baboons have gotten used to human interaction. This is why they sometimes infiltrate huts, tents, and vehicles to steal food. And while these animals may look friendly and harmless, they are anything but that.

- ❖ Do stay put inside your vehicle of transportation if you're planning on going on a self-drive safari. Remember to drive with caution. Slow is the way to go to avoid disturbing the wildlife.
- ❖ Do travel downwind from the safari creatures on a walking safari. Walk at a calm, even stride. And once again, silence is golden.
- ❖ Do not ever litter, smoke, or wear body fragrances during your safari. And never travel alone. Most camps recommend the presence of an armed park ranger during your game viewing excursions. The best way to enjoy the splendor of Africa and the magnificent animals you will see is with great respect and consideration.

Now that you know the "golden rules "of African safari, follow them and enjoy your safari...it is a once in a lifetime matter... 😊😊😊😊

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