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**IMPORTANT TRAVEL INFORMATION**

Everything has been arranged and all that’s left is for you to enjoy your holiday. To help you settle into your vacation, we have put together a few helpful facts and tips.

**Have a wonderful trip ☺**

**IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS**

**Passports**

Please ensure your verify the following details with your embassy before travel, as the following tips depend on your nationality.

A valid passport is required for all international travel. In most cases passports must be valid for a minimum of six months after your return date.

It’s essential that you have sufficient blank pages in your passport for visa entry stamps and permits. We recommend allowing at least two blank pages per country you will be visiting. Most airlines also stipulate two blank pages per country you are travelling to.

Also, it’s advisable to keep a certified copy of your passport in a safe place while travelling should your passport be lost or stolen.

**Visas**

Please check with the relevant embassies if you require visa’s for the countries you are travelling to.

**Other**

International driver’s license, inoculation certificates and travel vouchers may be required. Please check these prior to your departure.

**HEALTH TIPS**

There are a number of diseases that occur through Africa. Please check with your doctor what the best preventative treatment relevant to the country you are travelling is, before you leave.

**Yellow Fever**

If you are travelling from Africa or South America then you will need to product your inoculation certificate on arrival. A yellow fever inoculation only becomes valid 10 days after the actual injection and is valid for 10 years. Please allow enough time to be inoculated prior to travel.

**Malaria**

Malaria is prevalent throughout Africa, thus please speak to your doctor to ensure you take the correct preventative measures before you travel. We recommend speaking to your doctor about this at least three weeks prior to travel. As there are different strains of malaria throughout Africa, please provide your doctor with as much detail as possible around travel destination so the right medication can be prescribed.

It’s also advisable to wear long-sleeved tops, pants and socks in the evenings, which should be loose fitting. The uses of insect repellent sprays are also advisable.

**Hepatitis A & B**

If you are travelling through Southern or East Africa then it’s advisable that you are inoculated against both Hepatitis A & B. Please ensure you speak to your doctor before travel.

Hepatitis A

This disease is contracted primarily from contaminated food and drink. Ensure you always keep your hands cleaned and washed, especially after using the toilet or preparing or eating food. Also avoid foods that could be contaminates, such as uncooked shellfish, raw fruits and vegetables unless they have been peeled. Drink bottled or boiled water (unless you have been informed the water is safe), and avoid ice.

Hepatitis B

This disease can be fatal and is contracted through contaminated body fluids. Again, ensure you always keep your hands clean and washed. Travellers are generally at risk if they have unprotected sexual contact with an infected person, use contaminated unsterilized syringes, needles, obtain skin piercings or share razors & toothbrushes. In the event of an injury ensure that the healthcare is up to standard.

**Tetanus**

Ensure you have a tetanus immunisation before you travel as this is a widespread disease throughout Africa.

**HIV / Aids**

Travellers are generally at risk if they have unprotected sexual contact with an infected person, or use contaminated unsterilized syringes or needles for any injections or skin piercings.

**Drinking Water**

Although some destinations in Africa are safe to drink the water, we recommend sticking to bottled water throughout your trip.

**General**

* The sun is very hot in Africa; you should wear sunscreen, a hat and sunglasses during the day.
* After walks in the bush, ensure you check yourself for ticks, these carry tick bite fever which is easily treated.

**Medication**

Always travel with copies of your prescriptions and ensure medicines are in their original, labelled containers.

**Airport & Departure Taxes**

Airport taxes for your domestic flights are not included and therefore do not form part of the cost of your holiday. We suggest you have the exact amounts in US$ cash as change is not always available.

**Luggage**

Check with your airline and travel consultant prior to travel on airline weight restrictions.

**Airline restrictions on liquids**

Restrictions have been put in place on the quantities of liquids that one is allowed to travel with. All liquids must be held in individual clear plastic containers and not exceed 100ml. This includes such things as:-

* Cosmetics and face creams
* Hair products
* Toothpaste
* Perfumes
* Drinks, including water
* etc

Make sure you enquire in advance prior to travel about these liquid restrictions with your airline.

**Important Documents to Pack and Leave Behind**

* 2 photocopies of your passport identification page, airline tickets, drivers license, credit cards, traveller’s cheque serial numbers
* Leave one copy of each at home with friends or family
* Keep the other copy in a place separate from where you carry your valuables
* Keep a record of what travellers cheques have been used
* Leave a copy of your itinerary with friend or family in case they need to contact you in an emergency
* If you lose your passport report the loss as soon as possible to your country’s embassy or consulate, and the local police.

**What to Pack**

* Sunblock, sunglasses, wide-brimmed hat and insect repellent
* Blouses or shirts with long sleeves (even in summer, they’ll protect you from the sun and from mosquitoes)
* T-shirts
* Shorts or a light skirt
* Cotton pants or safari trousers for the evenings and cooler days
* Fleece or sweater and a warm jacket for game drives
* One pair of sandals or rubber thongs (for showers and boats)
* Comfortable walking shoes
* Tracksuit – good for sleeping in during winter months
* Light, compact raincoat
* Swimsuit
* Binoculars and camera

Only carry valuables in your hand luggage and ensure all your luggage is locked as a precautionary measure against theft.

**During your Travels**

* Be discreet with your valuables and equipment such as cameras. Try to travel lightly and try not stand out as a tourist.
* Carry minimum amount of valuables necessary for your trip. When you have to carry them on your person, conceal them in several places rather than putting them all in one wallet or pouch.
* Inside pockets, a sturdy shoulder bag with a strap over the chest or money belt worn under your clothes are the safest options for passports, cash, credit cards etc
* Pack an extra pair of glasses