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**Frequently Asked Questions**

**Is it safe to visit South Africa?**

Yes it is safe to travel to South Africa. Our country has been dealing with political unrest for decades which does not affect our region or any travel plans you may have.

**Getting to Southern Cross Safaris**

You will disembark in Johannesburg, Oliver Tambo International Airport, and catch a connecting flight to Port Elizabeth airport. Clients are collected from the Port Elizabeth airport by safari vehicle and enjoy an easy drive inland for about two hours to Southern Cross Safaris Ranch.

**Travel Documents**

You will need a passport that is not going to expire for at least 6 months after your arrival back home. Also very important: 3 blank pages available for stamps. You do not need a Visa to travel to South Africa, but it is important that you check with your travel agent for all travel requirements as they do change from time to time and are different from country to country.

**Paperwork for guns**

Gun importation is not as complicated as it is made out to be. Southern Cross will guide you through the step-by-step process. However, more and more of our clients prefer to travel without firearms. Southern Cross has quality firearms for rental if necessary.

**Accommodation** **(exclusive use)**

*Luxury Rooms inspired by GannaHoek's natural landscape and wildlife.*

​​5 Kingsize luxury suites

Large dining lounge with wood-burning fireplace

Library lounge with TV and wood-burning fireplace.

Coffee Bar

Old stone cellar bar

Swimming Pool

Small gym

Fire Pit

Wi-Fi available

**Taxidermy**

Karoo Taxidermy is a progressive South African Taxidermy company that specialises in delivering high quality trophies at realistic prices. They provide a complete, personalised taxidermy service and facilitate affordable shipping to worldwide destinations. A quick turnaround time, combined with quality workmanship and in-depth industry knowledge makes them the leaders in their field.

Visit their website: <http://www.karootaxidermy.com/>

**Tips and gratuity**

Tips are an integral part of all in the hunting camps. A good guide line is approx. 10% of the value of the hunt. I will however advise you accordingly at the completion of the hunt.

**Currency**

The US dollar cannot be used in South Africa if you are travelling. Guests can pay with a credit card at Southern Cross Safaris

**When is the** **best time of the year to hunt?**

The hunting seasons in Africa vary from country to country. In South Africa we have no fixed season and hunting can be done at any time of the year. February is very hot and our coldest month is July and August which is mild for most visitors. From September to April temperatures are warm to hot.

**Rifle Calibres**

It is recommended that for plains game a 30 calibre and for any of your dangerous game hunts the minimum requirement by law is 375. Alternatively hiring guns from Southern Cross is available.

**Firearms and Ammunition**

Two Rifles and one Shotgun are allowed by law into the country. Therefore, the suggested

calibres from .300 and.375 and larger for big game. One shotgun of any gauge.

It must be borne in mind that only 100 rounds per firearm may be brought into the country.

For the smaller calibres, only soft-nose ammunition. For the larger calibres half the amount in softs and the other half in solids.

**Non Hunters**

Southern Cross welcomes non hunters on safari. In your short 10 day stay make the most of our remote, private and tranquil location. Join the hunt for the morning or afternoon and enjoy some fresh air, South African sunshine and animal sighting with plenty of photographic opportunities. (see our species listing) The lodge provides a quiet retreat to restore and relax. Spend the day around our pool area sipping on a cocktail, or retreat under the dabbled light pool bed with a book. Get spinning in our small gym or catch-up on your laptop in our coffee bar or the terrace while soaking in the quiet and bush sounds. During our chilly winter the fire place provides a relaxed warm spot to enjoy some self-time. If you would like to see the Big 5 we would suggest a stop at Addo Elephant Park or Scotia near Port Elizabeth. Guests usually include this opportunity 1.5 days before departure date.

**Medical**

South Africa has a well-developed healthcare system. There are public hospitals throughout South Africa, but as in many other countries, you’ll probably get quicker care at a private hospital. Be sure to top up on medical insurance before leaving home. Well-qualified doctors, dentists and other specialists can be found in the main centres.

**Malaria**

There is no malaria in the Eastern Cape.

**We recommend packing the following:**

**Complete all Import Permit information required for Customs.**

**Arrange for support assistance to ensure speedy clearance of weapons.**

**Use a tough gun case and consider a soft gun bag if you have space.**

* Hunting pants that won’t tear easily, long sleeve shirt for sun and protection from thorn trees and a good pair of hunting shoes with ankle support for our rockier areas.
* Comfortable track shoes and sandals to wear around the lodge.
* Summer: Swimming costume/bathing suits, sun block, sun hat, sunglasses and lip balm. Winter bring gloves, a warm hat and under armour.
* Camera and video camera, binoculars, spare memory cards and charging equipment. The use of drones is strictly prohibited unless by prior arrangement.
* All of our lodge is located in a remote area and therefore guests should remember to bring an extra pair of correction glasses, contact lens solution and an extra set of contact lenses (if required) as well as a sufficient supply of any prescription medication.

**Temperatures**

Spring: Sept – Nov 18°C / 64°F 30°C / 86°F

Summer: Dec – Feb 23°C / 73°F 35°C / 95°F

Autumn: Mar – May 10°C / 50°F 26°C / 79°F

Winter: Jun – Aug 0°C / 32°F 22°C / 72°F