



I always consider myself to be one of the lucky ones to have ventured to the vast continent of Africa. Spending over 15 years travelling and living in the midst of East Africa, I called Tanzania home. To work in the ever-growing overland and safari business brought a whole new skill of developing clients dreams. The opportunity to immerse in the local culture, work with guides, speak the language and have a never ending love affair with Africa's most sort after wildlife - is extraordinary.

The different features of a tailor-made itinerary and the safari essentials are what we do best, we have been known to "stalk" our clients to make sure they are living their bucket list adventure.

Getting back to nature in Africa comes with a variety of different elements and the one we love to feature is walking safaris. Zambia, home to the remote South Luangwa National Park is one of the awesome places to explore on foot.

Recently returning from a secret season walking experience in South Luangwa Valley. We have included a few special tips and pointers to help you get the most out of your walking adventure.

Before you leave home:

There is nothing better than having a

"what to bring" list when you go on a walking safari. Making sure you have all of the essentials and that you are comfortable on the walk will enhance your overall experience. The two things I never leave home without is a pair of binoculars, for all of those small far away in the distance sightings that a camera just can't reach, and sunscreen. The other if you are travelling in secret season is plenty of anti-histamines, as hay fever is definitely not for the faint hearted. Or come with a box of tissues!

Last but not least if you are enthusiastic photographer bring your camera, lenses and plenty of memory cards. An additional battery as back up is recommended the camps do have charging facilities though will depend on whether you are filming for video purposes or simply taking photos.

Secret season being from November to April and Safari season May to October.

Level of fitness:

You don't need to be super fit to do a walking safari however we do recommend that you walk on average an hour 2 - 3 times a week. We suggest a least a minimum of 3 months before you travel, just to make sure. Depending on where we walk in the bush the distance can average around an hour and half in secret season or 3 - 5 hours

in safari season. The latter we walk from camp to camp and also have the opportunity to enjoy an overnight "sleep out" on the way.

What to wear:

Blending in is essential whilst walking in the bush you need plenty of earthy colours for you clothing such as khaki, wood brown and desert like sand. Lighter materials are ideal for the hotter months especially in October as you will need to wear clothes that breathe and are comfortable. Long pants or three quarter trousers are recommended and if you really want to get into the mood purchase a short sleeved "safari shirt" keeping you dry and cool.

Hats need to be of an earthy nature and definitely must be worn as the sun is very intense in the summer months.

Walking shoes or boots which ever you prefer need to be broken in before you leave home, as there is nothing worse than walking with sore or aching feet.

Professional Safari Guide and Game Scout:

These are the most important people you will be with on your walking safari and it is essential that you listen very carefully to what your guide advises in his briefing. Your safety is of the utmost of importance while you are walking through the bush

and your game scout is armed for your protection. It is extremely a rare occasion when a scout will need to use his firearm.

All walks are in single file with a lovely camp guide at the rear who generally plans our break under the shade of a Tamarind tree.

What do I bring with me on the walk?

In your packing list we advise that you bring a small back pack that fits you comfortably. This way you can store any camera essentials, water bottle, hat, sunscreen, repellent and binoculars. Most of these you will either have on or around your neck! We suggest small so that if you do have articles in the bag that they fit snug, there is nothing worse than rattling around in the bush. Quietness is our element of surprise and keeping down wind of any wildlife.

Your surroundings:

Viewing the bush from a vehicle is very different than being on foot, you would generally be looking down on wildlife or what we like to call observing. By walking in the bush you are on familiar ground with wildlife and need to get a feel for what is around you. The eerie silence of the bush brings a level of anticipation and excitement which can take your mind away from the safety aspect of the walk. It is important to make sure you stop to take in all the senses of the wilderness by living, breathing, hearing and feeling like you are a part of it.

The bush vegetation does vary in different areas of the Luangwa. Depending on which season you are walking in it is really important to make sure that wildlife don't become in-between you and their way of escape.

Both secret and safari seasons create a diverse habitat in the way of vegetation and wildlife different enhancing your experience.

Camp Locations:

The camps within the South Luangwa area are designed to give you a sense of raw emotion. What

you will find here is totally different from what you would expect anywhere else in southern or east Africa. The remote location of the camps benefit from being close to year round water sources such as the Luangwa river and abundant waterholes.

Seasons do dictate which camps are open and what experience are available to you. To define this if you are an avid photographer the secret season is advantageous for light, wildlife and contrasting landscapes. Safari season brings a harsh environment of dry river beds and waterholes and a wildlife struggle for survival.

Each camp brings it's own highlights, wildlife importance and experience. Being able to walk and combine the camp circuit shows you a true reflection of a "safari".

In Camp:

The style of accommodation is very authentic and rustic, with all of the amenities of home you are spoiled in true bush luxury. Majority of the camps only have a maximum of 5 - 6 tents/rooms keeping your experience personalised and allowing you to get the most out of your camp hosts. A day typically starts with a wake up call at 0530 before a light breakfast and your game viewing activity.

In some cases you may have brunch and only a light snack before you leave, the afternoon brings siesta time and a scrumptious afternoon tea of coffee, cake and or biscuits. Definitely not good for the waistline!

Your afternoon game viewing activity may incorporate a boat cruise, game drive or walk, depending on the season you are travelling in. Enjoy a stunning African sunset with a sundowner in hand over looking a waterhole or on the rivers edge.

Return to camp on dusk and enjoy a leisurely shower before dinner where your camp guide will collect you from your tent/room. As darkness descends resident wildlife like our friendly hippos are coming up to feed, so it is important that you don't walk in camp on your own at night.

Planning your trip:

There are so many elements to consider when planning your trip to Africa the experiences, highlights and what you would like to see and do are endless. You need to take your time and plan your itinerary carefully and make sure you spend time in the destination rather than just rushing your way through it.

If you haven't already, escape to Africa and discover somewhere new that will change your life forever.

