



SAFARI INFORMATION PACKET (R.S.A. EAST CAPE SAFARIS)

Provided by East Cape Safaris

GENERAL: East Cape Safaris is delighted to have the pleasure and opportunity in making your African safari a reality and a lifetime experience never to be forgotten. We are a family orientated outfit where the outfitter is the owner and together with his wife, family and friendly staff will cater to your every need, and are part of your safari for the duration of your stay. Meals are taken together and diners are the day's main meal, taken during the early evening, enjoying each others company around the camp fire. When a group has five or more hunters the camp is exclusively occupied by only that group. Guests become one with the East Cape Safaris Family and you are treated to true Eastern Cape hospitality.

WEAPONS; For plains game a rifle with flat shooting capabilities is sufficient. .308, 30/06, 7mm, 270, 300mag, etc... are all good choices. The rifle that you have the most confidence in shooting is always the best choice. The choice of ammunition is more important than the caliber. It is essential to shoot a good quality, well-constructed bullet such as a safari grade federal premium, trophy bonded, Barnes X, or nosler partition. Practice with the same loads that you will shoot while on safari. There is much open terrain in the East Cape. Shots can range from 50 to well over 300 yards. It is important to be confident in shooting at distances to 250 yards. It cannot be stressed enough how GOOD optics will improve the overall hunting experience. The best rifle scope and binoculars that your budget will allow. You will do a lot of glassing of game. Cheap binoculars will cause eyestrain and headaches. Muzzleloaders should be at least 50 caliber and be able to handle magnum loads of 150 grains. Bows should have a minimum draw weight of 55lbs. Good quality, fixed blade broad heads are necessary to bring down tough African game. Once again, the best equipment you can afford, and what you shoot with confidence. Handgun hunters at least a 44 mag.

BULLET PLACEMENT on African animals is slightly different than North American big game. The vitals sit a little lower & farther forward on the African animals. The pocket version of the book "The Perfect Shot" African Edition is a wise investment. Practice shooting from shooting sticks. Both long and short sticks are commonly used in Africa.

Long distance shooting of animals will be allowed once the shooter has proved that he is adequately able to make the long shot.

All firearms must be declared with U.S customs before leaving the states. Get this done well before departure date. The name of the document you will need is **Certificate of Registration For Personal Effects Taken Abroad, Customs form 4457. DO NOT LOOSE THIS DOCUMENT, KEEP IT WITH YOUR PASSPORT.** It is very important!

The location of the customs office nearest to you can usually be found in the blue pages of the phone book. Call ahead for an appointment. South Africa's gun/ammo laws change on a regular basis it is best to check with Hunter's Support for current regulations.

www.hunterssupport.com for a nominal fee this company can be hired to help you

through customs clearance at the airport in South Africa. They will meet your party when you arrive. We highly recommend their services. Please download form **SAP 520** from this site. If you do not have access to a computer, call our office and this form will be provided for you. **NOTE THAT PERMIT APPLICATIONS HAVE TO BE DONE 2 MONTHS PRIOR TO YOUR SAFARI.**

SPECIES; Your P.H./ guide will be with you at all times to field judge the trophy quality of the animals. He will make sure that the animals that you harvest are good quality representatives of their species. It is a good idea to familiarize yourself with basic species identification before your trip. Field identification guides on African species are available at all of the major bookstores. These are informative and are a great asset to the hunter.

TERRAIN; The beauty of the East Cape is its diversity of game species as well as terrain. Terrain and landscape greatly vary from ranch to ranch. Some is very mountainous, some very flat and open, depending on the species being hunted. Let your P.H know of any physical limitations you may have prior to the start of your safari so that we can plan accordingly. You need not be in great physical shape to hunt as we will hunt according to your ability with good results. Terrain is rocky & hilly with diverse rolling grasslands, thornveld, and rocky outcrops. Hunting is done by glassing and spot & stalk. East Cape Safaris do cater for all abled as well as all degrees of disabled hunters.

FLIGHTS; Most flights are routed through Atlanta (Delta only); Newark NJ (United Airlines) both being direct flights to SA or Denver (British Airways) via London and a few Eastern Airlines via Dubai or Doha to Johannesburg.

Then there is a short jumper flight to Port Elizabeth where all our clients fly into to be met by us.

BE SURE TO CHECK THAT FIREARMS ARE ALLOWED ON THE SPECIFIC FLIGHT AND AIRLINE, AIRLINES CHANGE POLICY ON THIS ALL THE TIME!!!!

GUN CASES; your gun case should be of a solid steel construction and have locks. Keep the keys with you at all times, as you will have to open the case at the airports. Soft gun cases are available at the Lodge for use during your safari for transporting your firearm to and from the field. Ammunition should go in the suitcase with your clothing, but easily accessible in case they ask to see it at the clearance station (they usually do not) Do not put ammo in with your firearm. Pack all ammo in your checked baggage. ***

Ammunition baggage requirements seem to change from time to time, place it in a small ammo holder so that if necessary it can be checked in separately if requested to do so.

RIFLE RENTAL: Please be aware that if you are renting and using one of our rifles you will be charged the going rate of **\$35 per day plus ammunition used at \$4 per round.** Rental will be for the number of days you have booked for irrespective of having used the rifle on a given day or not.

CLIMATE; Temperatures can be expected as follows/ Winter Months (June, July, August) 40 degrees or colder at night, warming to 70 to 75 degrees during the day. Autumn Months (March, April, May) 50 degrees at night warming to 70 to 80 during the day. Spring Months (September, October, November) 50 at night, 80 during the day. It is best to dress in layers as clothes can be taken off as needed. For winter months you will need a warm jacket, hat, and gloves.

ARRIVAL and DEPARTURE; You will fly into Johannesburg or Cape Town, then take a short jumper flight to Port Elizabeth where a representative from E.C.S will pick

you up and drive you to camp. Normal arrivals are from noon on your arrival day and departures are up to noon on the departure day. These half days are free; any times before or after these times will be subject to an extra fee in order to cover extra meals and costs. The representative doing the collection of clients at the airports will be Grant Abrahamson himself or your assigned Professional Hunter or Tour Guide.

NON-HUNTING ACTIVITIES; There are many things for non hunters to do here. Scenery is spectacular and there are always animals to see & photograph. Bring a good camera; digital being the choice as we can then view photo's while on safari. There are also guided tours to Addo Elephant Park, Scotia Lion Park, Pumba Private Reserve, as well as other places of interest. There is also shopping, spa beauty treatments, fishing, bird watching, game drives, etc.... **For tour fees see Tours Sheet enclosed.**

PROFESSIONAL HUNTERS; All P.H's are extremely well qualified, experienced, and all speak English. Each hunter will also have a field staff of 1 tracker and 1 skinner. East Cape Safaris expects all PH's to be professional at all times and if there is any breach in this professionalism please notify the Outfitter of this immediately.

TRACKERS & SKINNERS; Your trackers/skinners work very hard to insure your success. They really appreciate simple gifts such as, candy, gum, small flashlights, cheap knives, t-shirts, caps, etc..... I recommend that you bring a couple of these small items and give each one of them a small token of your appreciation during your safari. These items may seem insignificant to us but are a big deal to them. Also, let them know when you are pleased with something they have done for you. A little praise goes a long way.

HEALTH; Always seek pre-travel advice before an international trip. It is always a good idea to have a physical and a check up prior to your trip. Consult your physician as to necessary medications. Please remember that malaria is not present in the East Cape. Take along sufficient quantities of prescription medications, as well as copies of prescriptions for them. If you wear prescription glasses, be sure to take a spare pair as well as a copy of your eyeglass prescription. The lodge as well as all the safari vehicles will have basic medication available. Also pack a small med kit with common over the counter medications such as, aspirin, sunscreen, lip balm, diarrhea remedy, constipation, antihistamine, etc....

Make sure your travel agents advise you to take out emergency medical insurance for any emergency that might occur while you are on safari. As of this writing no pills or vaccinations are necessary for the East Cape region of South Africa. This is a safe and malaria free area of South Africa.

SPECIAL DIETARY REQUIREMENTS; We do cater for special meal requirements but unfortunately an extra daily fee of \$40 per day will be charged to meet these special requirements. Special beverage requirements will also be subject to an extra charge and consumption of alcohol beyond moderation will also be subjected to an extra fee for replacement of these goods.

ROOMS; Your room will be fully furnished with air conditioners for heat and cold. Towels are provided for as well as basic bathroom necessities. Our Lodge is a smoke free Lodge and smokers are welcome to smoke outside of the Lodge itself and we ask that no smoking takes place close to any room or open doors leading into the Lodge.

DRINKS AND BAR FEES; All drinks non alcoholic and alcoholic as well as table wines are free for moderate usage; however, there **will be an extra fee charged where excessive usage** has taken place or where a special brand had to be purchased for a client.

Imported alcohol, such as single malt whiskey is very expensive and these will be billed to the client's final bill where these brands have been requested.

CAMP EQUIPMENT/CLOTHING; It may be chilly at night, bring warm bedclothes. Keep in mind that laundry is done daily, so it is not necessary to bring much in the way of clothing. Two sets of hunting clothes and enough utility clothing for 2 days is more than sufficient. You will also need a light winter coat, hat, gloves, thermal underwear if you really need to, worn in boots, sneakers for evening, light but warm jacket, casual clothes. Good footwear is essential. Do not wear heavy insulated boots. A light pair of waterproof hiking boots with comfortable soles are a better choice. Although rain is very rare in the hunting seasons it is a good idea to bring light rain gear. For hunting choose dark green, gray, khaki clothes or camouflage is all good choices. Also bring a daypack for the vehicle when days are spent in full out in the hunting fields.

TIPPING; Tipping is always at the client's discretion. Obviously, tips will depend on how hard you think your staff has worked for you. **DO NOT TIP** cash during your safari, all tipping to be done at end of safari through the outfitter. We base this on the traditional 10 - 15% of your bill. We recommend tipping as much as you can afford if the services were of high quality. In cases where 2 x 1 hunting took place both hunters are obliged to tip according to the suggested scale. Safari staff appreciates your acknowledgement of their services through the receipt of a tip; but they do understand that this is a privilege and not a right! **SUGGESTED TIPPING SCALE BELOW; THIS IS A GUIDELINE ONLY.**

PROFESSIONAL HUNTER or TOUR GUIDE	\$ 80 min per day
IN CASE OF 2X1 THEN TOTAL STARTING AT	\$ 100 min per day
TRACKER	\$ 15 min per day
SKINNER	\$ 15 min per day
MAIDS/CAMP/COOK STAFF	\$ 30 min for all per day
(usually divided by 4 lodge staff members)	

PH and Tour Guide tips to be paid directly to each of them; staff tips to be paid to Outfitter in envelopes with name and amount written thereon. Please do not give staff any money directly. Twenty percent of staff tips are deducted to pay behind the scenes staff members a tip as well for their valuable work done behind the scenes.

THIS IS ONLY A SUGGESTED TIPPING SCALE, USE YOUR OWN DISCRETION.

TAXIDERMISTRY; All Clients will have an opportunity of visiting our local taxidermist to discuss mounting or dipping and packing, unless otherwise specified by client. This will give you the client, the chance of calculating costs and deciding even after arrival back home after your safari. The percentage of East Cape Safari clients doing their Taxidermy work here in SA is around 90%; quality combined with a perfectly natural look/realism of the animal is achieved by the local Taxidermists who work with African animals daily. Costs are also reduced considerably by doing the full mounting process here in South Africa.

TROPHY EXPORT/IMPORT; If you are sending hides / horns home to the U.S. There is a fee for dipping, packing, & crating in South Africa (approx. \$150 per animal) and a fee (also approx. \$130 per animal) at U.S. customs when they arrive in the U.S. As well as air freight charges. These fees vary and can change without notice due to changing airline and customs costs. Your outfitter or we have no control over this aspect

of your safari. Please enquire on safari about the various options as to the importation of your trophy animals into the USA.

ACCESSORIES; there are several items that will make life much easier while on safari. You will need a **voltage converter** if you plan on using battery chargers, ect... South Africa runs on 220 volts. Converters are available at Radio Shack. **Most modern electronic chargers are 110 volt to 220 volt compliant.**

An empty soft **duffle bag** should be packed in with your clothes to bring home souvenirs and curios. This can be checked as baggage on your return flight.

A major **credit card** should always be brought along in case of emergency or unexpected purchases. It will be necessary to contact the company to let them know you will be abroad, otherwise your card may be denied in South Africa.

Make sure you have plenty of **film, digital cards, batteries, tapes for camcorders**, as these will be very expensive in South Africa if you can find them.

Contact your **medical insurance provider** and inquire about coverage in case of an accident or illness overseas.

It is a good idea to purchase **trip insurance** in the event that your safari has to be cancelled by you. This is available through a travel agent.

There is much to observe in South Africa a pair of **binoculars** for each person is recommended. **Internet access as well as a PC at the Lodge** is available; if you wish to bring your laptop on safari you will be able to connect to the internet.

NOTES OF INTEREST;

If you wound an animal you are required to pay the trophy fee for it and it is taken off of your package. Trackers are very good at finding animals and will make every effort to do so. Any animal hunted by the client, and has to be killed by your PH or any other PH in order to prevent bodily harm to you the client will be subject to the full trophy fee payable by the client.

Extra animals can be added to your package for the trophy fees. Animals swapped out of your package for other species will be credited @ 60% of the trophy fee on the trophy packages only. Management Package changes must be discussed with the Outfitter.

Trust and co-operate with your P.H. He is there to make your safari the experience of a lifetime. If he tells you an animal is too small do not argue or insist on shooting it when he believes you can get a bigger one. Guides will respect every client's knowledge of hunting and even enjoy learning new things from clients, but do remember that you PH is the Professional when out hunting here in Africa, after all you are paying for his professional services, so listen to him and all will go smoothly.

Do not hesitate to bring along wives & children on safari. This is a great experience for a family and we do specialize in Photo Safaris besides pure hunting safaris.

You can allow an observer to shoot one or more animals in your package at no extra charge. Unless they plan on hunting all week with you.

For travel to go smoothly you will need the following documents on person;

Passport, Customs form 4457, Credit Card, Outfitter contact page, Form SAP 520.

It is a good idea to leave a copy of your passport at home, also carry a second form of ID.

PLEASE CONTACT US FOR ANY FUTURE QUESTIONS YOU MIGHT NEED ANSWERED. WE ARE ALL LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU SAFELY IN AFRICA AND TO ENJOY YOUR COMPANY IN CAMP WITH EAST CAPE SAFARIS.

EAST CAPE SAFARIS

PO Box 307 / Somerset East / 5850 / South Africa

Mobile +27 827068875

Email info@eastcapesafaris.co.za

Web: www.eastcapesafaris.co.za