

PLANNING YOUR FIRST SAFARI

Thinking about Africa? Start here!

Planning an African safari is exciting and often overwhelming. With so many countries, seasons, lodges and styles of travel, it's hard to know where to begin.

This short guide is designed to help you:

- Understand what really matters when planning a safari.
- Avoid common mistakes first-time travellers make.
- Ask the right questions before committing.
- Feel confident speaking to a safari specialist.



When is the right time to go?

There is no single “best time” to visit Africa, only what’s best for you. Many travellers wait too long, searching for the perfect month. In reality:

- Wildlife viewing, weather, and cost all vary by region.
- Some destinations shine in green season.
- Others are best in dry months.
- School holidays and migration timings matter more than people realise.

A KEY QUESTION TO ASK YOURSELF

Are you travelling for wildlife density, scenery, comfort, or value? The answer to this will help you make the right decisions. And will help you help us when you’re ready for a no-obligations chat.





Choosing the right destination

Instead of asking “Which country?” consider:

- Do you want classic big-game viewing or diverse landscapes?
- Is this a once-in-a-lifetime trip or the first of many?
- Are you travelling as a couple, family, or small group?
- How important is comfort versus adventure?

REMEMBER

**A good safari is about pacing and balance,
not ticking boxes.**

You can choose to spend the entire safari in one country or combine two or more countries in your safari itinerary. The choice is yours. And we can help you create amazing itineraries that give you the best of whichever destinations you choose.

Safari lodges... What really matters?

Luxury isn't about price — it's about fit

A lodge can be:

- Beautiful but poorly located.
- Comfortable but not ideal for your interests.
- Perfect for couples but wrong for families.

HOW DO YOU CHOOSE?

When choosing accommodation, consider:

- Location within the destination.
- Privacy and atmosphere.
- Activities included.
- Room layout and comfort level.

The right lodge should support your experience, not define it.



Budget - the BIG decider!

Think in ranges, not fixed numbers. Safari costs vary widely based on:

- Season.
- Length of stay.
- Internal flights.
- Level of exclusivity.

FORGET THE NUMBERS

It's normal not to know your exact budget at the start. What helps most is understanding:

- Where flexibility exists.
- Where compromises hurt the experience.
- Where value really lies.

A good planner will help you prioritise — not pressure you.





Beware the pitfalls!

COMMON MISTAKES TO AVOID

- Trying to see too much in one trip.
- Choosing lodges based on photos alone.
- Locking dates before understanding seasons.
- Comparing safaris like city hotels.
- Waiting too long to ask questions.



How a safari is actually planned. . .

A good safari planning experience:

- Starts with conversation, not forms.
- Adapts as ideas evolve.
- Balances dreams with practical advice.
- Feels calm and collaborative.

If planning feels stressful, something is wrong.



READY TO TALK THROUGH YOUR IDEAS?

If you're considering an African safari – whether you're just starting or already have plans in mind – a short conversation can bring clarity.

At Ubon Safari, we design tailor-made journeys across Africa with care, experience, and attention to detail.

Let's start the conversation!

We're waiting to hear from you!

WhatsApp us now on: +447950 730966

