



SAFARI BUDGETING GUIDE

(To be used with the Safari Budgeting Checklist Form)

INTRODUCTION

When I sell an African Hunting Safari, the most common question that I get from first time hunters is “How much is it going to cost?” As each hunting safari to Africa is unique, there is no easy answer to that question. This Safari Planning Guide and accompanying Budgeting Checklist Form were developed to help you plan for the costs associated with your hunting safari.

Budgeting for an African Hunting Safari can be a confusing process. Unless you have taken multiple hunting safaris to Africa, you can be overwhelmed by the confusing array of charges that add up to make a successful hunting trip to Africa, The purpose of this guide is to take some of the mystery out of the budgeting process, and to provide you with a checklist that will help you determine what items are included in your safari pricing from your outfitter, and what items you will need to investigate further so that you have adequate funds to pay for your safari.

This guide is designed to be used with the Safari Budgeting Checklist Form that you should have received with this Safari Budgeting Guide. This Safari Budgeting Checklist Form is designed to cover most of the common charges that may arise when taking a safari to Africa. Your particular hunting safari may not require expenditures for all of the line items included in this checklist.

Leave those items blank, or write N/A to signify that they are not applicable. When first looking at the checklist, the array of possible charges can seem overwhelming. This checklist is designed to cover the most extensive safaris that are undertaken in Africa today. It can still be used for the simplest safaris, as many of the items are universal among countries.

This Safari Planning Guide will follow the list of expenses in the order they are presented on the Safari Budgeting Checklist Form. I hope that this Safari Budgeting Guide and Checklist Form will help you in budgeting for your African hunting safari.

John Martins, Founder

Discount African Hunts

PRE-SAFARI EXPENSES

Passport – A valid passport having at least 6 blank pages and having an expiration date that is 6 months beyond the date of entry is required to enter most African countries.

Visa – Citizens of the US are not required to have Visas to enter The Republic of South Africa and Namibia. Most of the remaining African countries require a Visa. See the Discount African Hunts website for information on countries requiring Visas for entry.

Immunizations – A list of immunizations that are recommended for traveling to African countries can be found on the CDC website or on the Discount African Hunts website.

Medical Evacuation Insurance – Medical Evacuation insurance is recommended for travel to many African countries, and especially to remote areas. More information is available at www.globalrscue.com or on the Discount African Hunts website.

Traditional Travel Insurance – Traditional travel insurance is available through many airlines when purchasing airfare. There are several companies providing this type of coverage and you may find several; of them by Googling the search term “Travel Insurance”.

Firearms Permitting Service – Using a Firearms Permitting Service to provide pre-permitting services can ease your entry into South Africa and shorten your wait times. The Afton Guest House provides this service. A link to the [Afton Guest House website](#) can be found on the Discount African Hunts website homepage.

Guesthouse – Staying at a guesthouse can ease the travel aches after a long day of traveling. A link to the [Afton Guesthouse](#) in Johannesburg is available on the Discount African Hunts website homepage.

Airfare – Airfare may be booked as one continuous travel itinerary, or may require several different flights on both domestic airlines and an international airline.

SAFARI EXPENSES

Airport P/U & Return – If you are booking a package hunt, this may or may not be included. Be sure to ask your outfitter if you do not see it displayed on your Contract or on the description of the package. This fee can run up to several hundred dollars on some remote safaris.

Package Hunt vs Daily Rates + Trophy Fees Hunts – There are basically two types of African safaris. The first type is a package hunt, where the daily rates are combined with a list of trophy fees for a select list of included animals, or a trophy fee allowance is included. After shooting the included animals, or exhausting the trophy fee credit, you pay trophy fees for any additional animals shot.

The second type of hunt entails paying a daily rate that covers all of the safari related expenses except for trophy fees. You will then be charged trophy fees for any animals you shoot while on safari.

You need to choose which type of hunt you are taking and use the appropriate lines during the budgeting process.

Some outfitters include the Value Added Tax (VAT) on daily rates in their package prices. Other outfitters will charge extra for the VAT, so you should find out if the VAT on daily rates is included or is extra. If not included, ask the outfitter what his daily rates are. Daily rates are generally higher for dangerous game hunts. Many countries charge a tax on daily rates and a different tax on trophy fees. Be sure you understand what those tax rates are and budget accordingly based on the trophies you expect to take.

Under South African law, if trophies are to be exported, the trophy fees are exempt from VAT.

In Zimbabwe, a 2% tax is currently charged on daily rates and a 4% tax is charged on trophy fees. These taxes go to the Zimbabwean government, but are collected by the outfitter. Other countries rates vary, so be sure to ask your outfitter about these taxes.

Observer Fees – Observer fees are typically charged on a per day basis. Some countries such as Namibia require a tax on the observer rates. Be sure to ask your outfitter about these charges.

Firearms Rental and Ammunition Charges – If you do not wish to bring firearms with you on your hunting safari, most outfitters offer rental firearms and ammunition for a fee. Ammunition charges are significantly higher in Africa than in North America, so do not be surprised if you are charged \$10 and upwards per round in some African countries. Ammunition for calibers larger than 375 are especially expensive in Zimbabwe and certain other African countries. Be sure to ask your outfitter about these costs, so you can budget accordingly.

Hunting License – Some outfitters include the cost of your hunting license, if required. In some countries, you will have to pay up to \$200 to obtain this license. Ask your outfitter about the requirements for the country you will be hunting in.

Permit Fees – Many animals will require a permit either in advance or at the end of the hunt. Be sure to ask your outfitter whether the costs of these permits are included in your package hunt, or will be paid separately by you.

CITES Permit Fees – Animals that are listed under the CITES treaty require special paperwork to be able to have an export permit issued by the exporting countries Government. Animals that are covered vary by country. Leopards, elephants, rhinos and bontebok are among the many trophies that are regulated by CITES. Be sure to ask your outfitter and your customs broker about requirements and Permit costs to import animals regulated by the CITES treaty.

Special Weapon Permit Fees – Zimbabwe currently requires a \$1500 permit to be able to hunt dangerous game with a bow in Zimbabwe. Be sure to ask your outfitter about any special fees if you are planning on hunting with a bow, crossbow or handgun on your safari.

Trophy Prep – Some outfitters charge extra for preparing trophies prior to shipment to a dip and pack agent. This charge is prevalent in Zimbabwe and certain other African countries, and may in certain instances be combined with Documentation fees.

Documentation Fees – Some outfitters may charge for producing the paperwork necessary to transfer trophies throughout the exporting process. This charge is prevalent in Zimbabwe and certain other African countries, and may in certain instances be combined with Trophy Prep fees.

Gratuities – If you are happy with the performance of your Professional Hunter (PH), it is customary to tip him from 5 – 10% of the hunt's value.

For tipping your tracker, \$50 - \$100 US is a good tip.

For the remainder of the camp staff, ask your PH for guidance.

Misc. Expenses – This category is a catch all, and can include liquor, extra groceries purchased prior to the start of your hunt, African Curios, etc.

POST SAFARI EXPENSES

Delivery of Trophies to a Dip and Pack Agent – Check with your outfitter to see if this is included in your safari. When hunting in remote areas, there may be an additional charge, as trophies have to be transported out separately after you have departed.

Dip and Pack Fees – All trophies must be treated prior to shipment to an overseas location. In many cases, a Veterinarian's certification is required that the skulls have been boiled and the capes have been treated with insecticides. There is generally a schedule that varies by animal size that determines cost. The cost of crating the trophies for shipment abroad is also included in **this** fee.

Shipping – This is the cost of shipping to the port of entry, and may in some cases include shipping to your final destination. The best way to help keep this cost down is to ask the Dip and Pack agent to take three quotes from reputable shipping agents. You will receive estimates by E-mail and will be asked to pay the shipping agent direct by wire transfer or by credit card.

Customs Broker including Shipping to Final Destination – You should select your Customs Broker prior to departing on safari. Discuss with them the list of animals that you expect to harvest and any special importing permit requirements. The customs Broker will clear your trophies through the paperwork process into the US or Canada. Shipping from the port of entry to your taxidermy or home will be included in this bill.

Taxidermy – This is the total cost of mounting your African trophies for display.



SAFARI BUDGETING CHECKLIST FORM

YEAR	OUTFITTER	HUNT DATES
<u>PRE-SAFARI EXPENSES</u>		
Passport		\$ _____
Visas		\$ _____
Immunizations		\$ _____
Medical Evacuation Insurance		\$ _____
Traditional Travel Insurance		\$ _____
Firearms Permitting Service		\$ _____
Guest House		\$ _____
• Dinner at Guest House		\$ _____
Airfare – US / Canada Domestic		\$ _____
Airfare – International		\$ _____
Airfare – Africa Domestic		\$ _____
<u>SAFARI EXPENSES</u>		
Airport P/U & Return		\$ _____
Safari Package Price (including package trophy fees)		\$ _____
• Additional Trophy Fees		\$ _____
Tax on Package Daily Rates		\$ _____

OR

OR

Daily Rates \$_____ / Day x _____ Days = \$_____

- Tax on Daily Rates \$_____

Trophy Fees \$_____

- Tax on Trophy Fees \$_____

Observer Fees \$_____ / Day x _____ Days = \$_____

Firearms Rental including Ammunition \$_____

Hunting License \$_____

Permit Fees \$_____

CITES Permit Fees \$_____

Special Weapon Permit Fees (if required) \$_____

Trophy Prep \$_____

Doc Fees (if required) \$_____

Gratuities – PH \$_____

Gratuities – Tracker / Skinner \$_____

Gratuities – Camp Staff \$_____

Misc. Expenses – (Curios, Gifts, Liquor, etc.) \$_____

POST SAFARI EXPENSES

Delivery of Trophies to Dip & Pack Agent \$_____

Dip & Pack Fees \$_____

Shipping \$_____

Customs Broker including shipping to Taxidermist \$_____

Taxidermy \$_____

SAFARI TOTAL \$_____