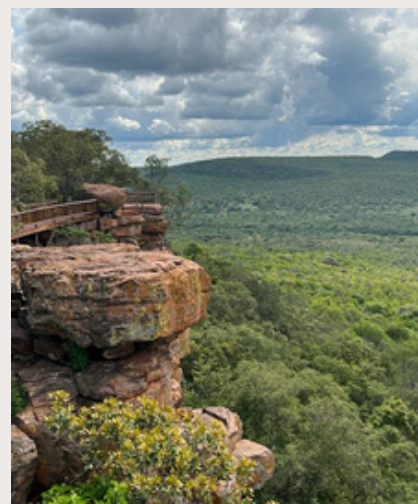
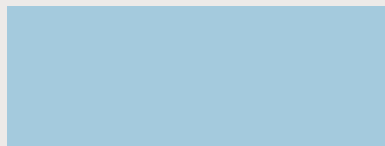
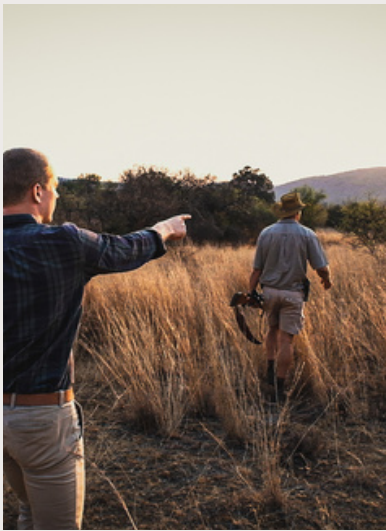




HIPPO LAKES

Helpful Information

How to prepare for your unforgettable journey to Hippo Lakes





WhatsApp

The best way to stay connected is to share your number with everyone in your group. Please download the app at WhatsApp whatsapp.com. Here you will be able to share photos and information long after you return home.

Weather

Safari Temperatures:

Autumn (Apr - May)	Winter (Jun - Aug)	Spring (Sep - Nov)	Summer (Dec - Mar)
80°F 55°F	71°F 42°F	85°F 53°F	88°F 63°F
8% rain	2% rain	20% rain	35% rain

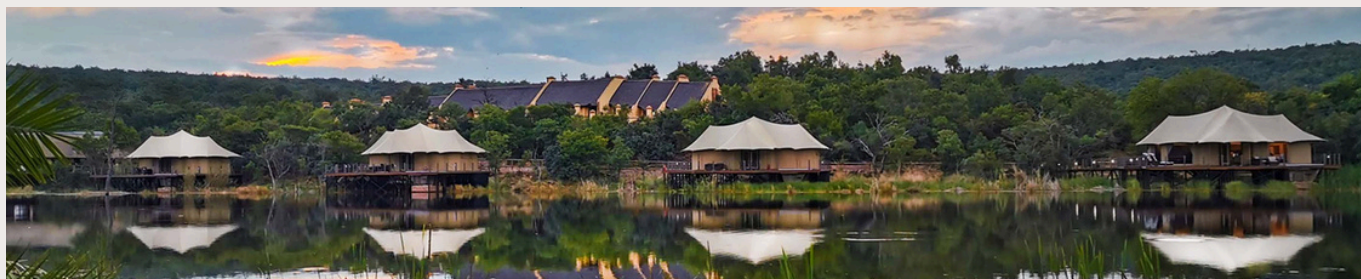
Temperatures may feel cooler due to lower humidity.

Cape Town Temperatures:

Autumn (Apr - May)	Winter (Jun - Aug)	Spring (Sep - Nov)	Summer (Dec - Mar)
71°F 58°F	61°F 51°F	63°F 53°F	77°F 63°F
17% rain	26% rain	16% rain	7% rain

Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe:

Autumn (Apr - May)	Winter (Jun - Aug)	Spring (Sep - Nov)	Summer (Dec - Mar)
84°F 57°F	85°F 53°F	96°F 65°F	88°F 69°F
8% rain	2% rain	15% rain	65% rain



Entry into South Africa

For United States travelers, a passport is all that is needed. *For US passport holders, you must have 6 months from return date before expiration on your passport to travel and two blank pages.*

For all other guests please visit <https://www.southafrica-usa.net/homeaffairs/visafees.htm>

TRAVELING WITH CHILDREN:

If you are entering from a VISA-exempt nation (such as the US), a valid passport is all that is needed for your minor(s). All other countries, please refer to the link for the most up to date information.

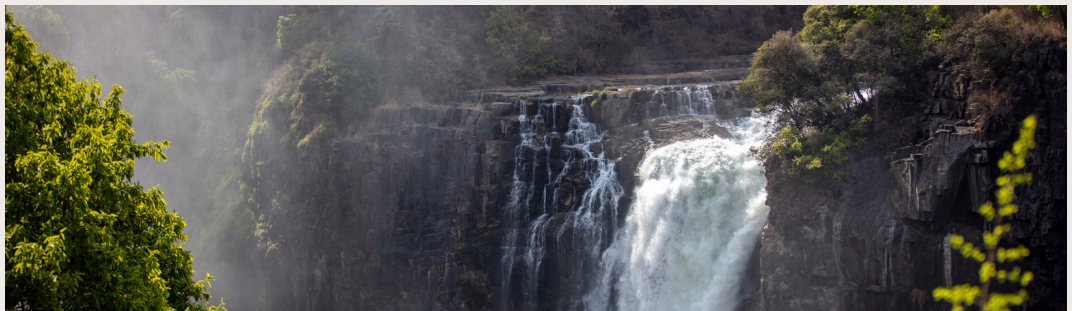
[Department of Home Affairs - UPDATED ADVISORY: Requirements for children travelling through South African Ports of Entry \(dha.gov.za\)](#)

Entry into Zimbabwe (Victoria Falls)

A visa is required for all US guests and can be purchased on arrival for \$30 cash per person (no debit or credit card). *For all passport holders, you must have six months from return date before expiration on your passport to travel and two blank pages available.*

For all other guests please click here: [Department of Immigration Zimbabwe](#)

Victoria Falls is a malaria region.





Travel Insurance

While travel protection is **not** included with your stay at Hippo Lakes Safari Lodge, we highly recommend securing comprehensive travel insurance. This will ensure coverage for cancellations, trip interruptions, baggage claims, and medical needs while traveling overseas.

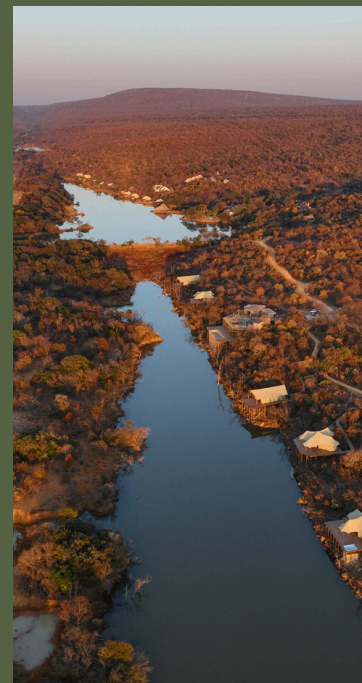
Recommended Travel Insurance Providers:

- [Allianz Travel Insurance](#)
- [Travel Guard](#)

Medical Requirements and The Waterberg Biosphere

Situated amidst the towering Waterberg Mountains in the Limpopo Province, the Waterberg Biosphere, as the name suggests, serves as a water reservoir for the region. Renowned for its rugged beauty, the landscape is characterized by low-lying mountain ranges and escarpments, and a network of streams, rivers, and lakes. It is the home of South Africa's first-ever savannah biosphere reserve and is also home to many other nature reserves which provide a protected habitat for an array of wildlife.

Johannesburg, Hippo Lakes (Waterberg Region), and Cape Town are all malaria-free, so inoculations or medications are not necessary. If you are traveling to a different region of South Africa or Africa in general, please inquire to the respective area of travel for up-to-date health advisories.





Packing Suggestions

Struggling to know what to bring? In general, we suggest clothing in neutral or moderate tones. Keep in mind **layering is helpful as the weather conditions vary.**

- Warm jacket (such as a down jacket) for both winter and summer months
- Raincoats or rain ponchos for Cape Town (year-round)
- Wide-brim hat, or beanie and light gloves for winter months (late May - early August)
- Comfortable walking shoes such as sneakers, as well as sandals or flip-flops
- Swimsuit (especially for warmer months, September through early May)
- US to South African Adaptors. Here is a link: <https://a.co/d/crIRtxZ>
- Face wash cloth (if you use them at home)
- Binoculars (one per couple). Here is a suggested pair: <https://a.co/d/07fDyXt>
- Camera with spare memory cards
- Lightweight flashlight for nighttime drives (most cell phones have flashlights)
- Dressy casual for Cape Town (dress for ladies or button up shirt for men)
- Sunglasses
- Sunscreen
- Insect repellent
- Personal toiletries – **we do supply shampoo/conditioner as well as body wash/soap**





Currency

Summary

In order to make your international travel as smooth as possible, here are the amounts and types of currency you're most likely to need throughout your trip.

Hippo Lakes: \$50 USD cash per person (for 3rd party experiences gratuity)

Hippo Lakes + Cape Town: \$200 USD cash per person

Hippo Lakes + Cape Town + Victoria Falls: \$300 USD cash per person

South Africa

The local currency is the South African Rand (ZAR). Major credit and debit cards are widely accepted throughout the country. Cash is only needed for certain markets in Cape Town or tipping outside of Hippo Lakes. If you plan to withdraw cash from ATMs, remember to bring and know your credit or debit card PIN numbers.

At Hippo Lakes

All purchases and staff gratuities at Hippo Lakes are handled by credit or debit card. Cash is not required on property. Please note that American Express, Diner's Club, and Traveler's Checks are not accepted; all other major credit cards are welcome. For third-party activities such as the Sky Safari Experience or Elephant Interaction, gratuities are cash-only, as these services are operated independently.

Johannesburg, Cape Town, and Other Areas in South Africa

While credit and debit cards are accepted for most purchases, all guides, porters and activity providers require gratuities in cash only (either ZAR or USD). Please bring USD or ZAR cash for this purpose.

Zimbabwe

The US Dollar (USD) is the primary currency for all transactions. USD cash, credit cards, and debit cards are widely accepted. Please note that the Zimbabwe VISA (approximately USD 30 per person, subject to change) must be paid in USD cash upon arrival at the Victoria Falls Airport.



Hair Dryers

Due to South Africa's safety requirements, you will notice the lack of electrical plugs in the bathrooms. Hair dryers are available and located either in the drawer of your desk or in your closet.

Air-conditioning Unit

Known in South Africa as the 'Aircon,' this wonderful unit will both cool and warm your tent. For **cool air**, select the mode with an **icicle**. Looking to **warm** the tent, select the **sun symbol**. For a quick reference:

15°C	59°F
20°C	68°F
35°C	77°F
30°C	86°F



Locking your Tent

Please note we have resident Vervet monkeys who will take advantage of an open door to your tent and wreak havoc. Be sure your doors are **closed and locked** to avoid unexpected visitors.