

Family Safari Quiz



CEDARBERG AFRICA



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1 - Introduction

Three pairs of round eyes gaze up in awe at the speaker, who towers three feet above their small frames:

“You mean you slept out here in the wilderness all on your own?” one small voice pipes up .

“I did” replies the impressively tanned individual in khaki.

“Wow...cool! Mum, can we do that next time?”

So begins the first in a series of African adventures that will provide these kids with tall tales to amaze their school friends, then their girlfriends and, who knows, even lead to a career in zoology. Many families are very keen to enjoy an African Safari Adventure. However, Africa is a VAST continent, and the safari experience varies from country to country. One family may delight in venturing into remote areas far from people and modern-day creatures, whilst this might be anathema to another family.

In my [‘Families on Safari’](#) article, on our website, I said that how your family behaves at home is how they are likely to behave on safari. If your son is constantly on the go, he will feel restricted by the traditional safari lodge pattern of activities. This often requires sitting quietly in game vehicles and can be very inactive. If your kid gets queasy on car journeys, then an uncomfortable three-hour drive on a gravel road or a bumpy flight in a small charter plane may be asking for trouble.

However, before you give up on the whole idea, this need not be a problem at all. The wide variation in family safaris available in different African countries can really help when searching for the right one for you and your family.

So, we thought that a [Family Safari Quiz](#) would be a good way to show you how very different the areas are, and to help you to decide which destinations to shortlist.

Sometimes you have heard of a safari that sounds just right, but the quiz might bring up some alternative destinations which could be even better!

The quiz asks some generic questions about [your family](#) and their attitudes. Depending on your answers, we can make some broad assumptions about which areas may suit you best.



A man and two children are sitting on a large, weathered log in a savanna landscape. The man is on the left, wearing a white cap and a green hoodie, looking towards the right. Two children are sitting next to him, both wearing white hats and looking in the same direction. The background shows a savanna with trees and a herd of animals. The scene is framed by a thin green border.

Now wheel in the...

2 - Cedarberg 'Utafutaji' ('search' in Swahili)

Please **circle** the answers most suited to you. Your exact opinions may not match any one of these categories, so circle the one or two which are closest to your views.





Comfort levels

Most family safari destinations have a range of safari lodges to suit all budgets. We don't really offer destinations where you have to rough it.

Although that can be an option if you want it. It comes in the form of a mobile camping safari or a fly-camp or star bed. (A fly-camp is a rustic camp which operates as a satellite camp to a main lodge. It's often used for walking safaris and is not always suitable for family safaris.)



3 - Family Safari Quiz Questions & Results



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1. Access to 21st century comforts

However, our various family safari destinations do vary in what 21st century creature comforts, such as television, videos, playrooms and so on, they offer.

- A. We like to have a high level of comfort (five-star, air-conditioning, lots of facilities)
- B. It would be nice to have a television/video room for the kids but not essential
- C. We like a comfortable lodge, but we want to be away from modern distractions such as TV
- D. We want to be in a pretty simple camp such as a mobile camp





2. Internet Connectivity

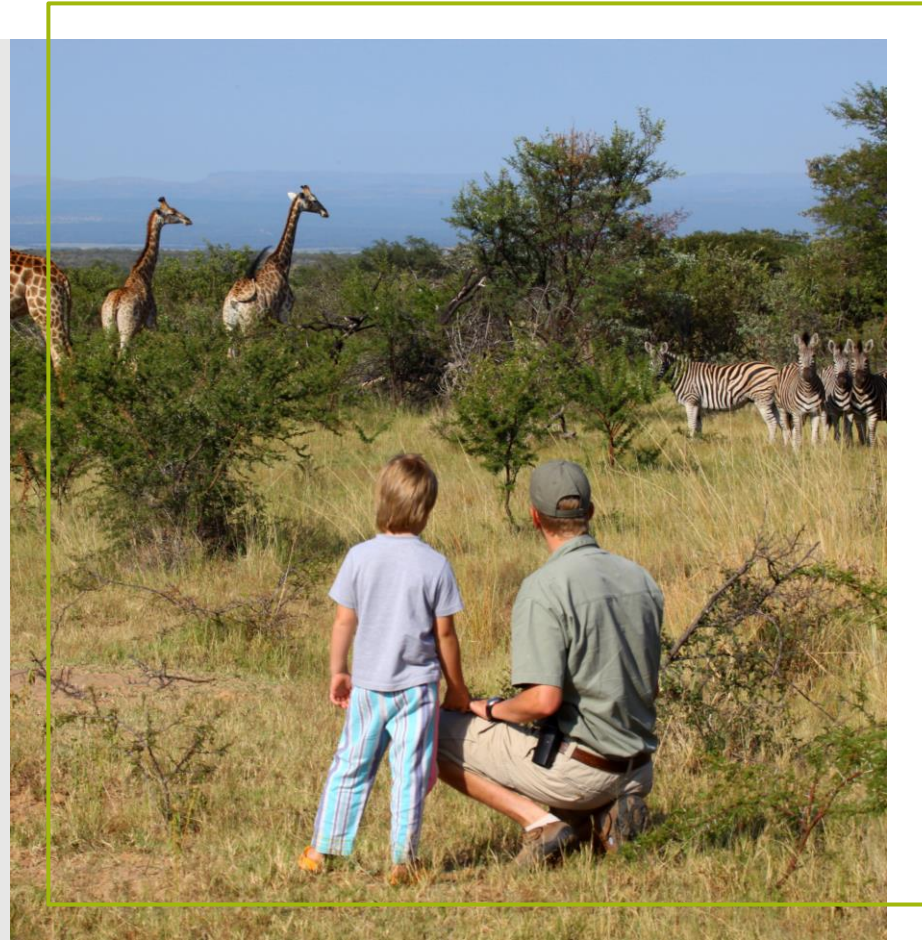
This is a related but separate issue. Sometimes it's the parents who need to be available online, sometimes the kids, sometimes both...

- A. As a family we need to be able to keep in contact with business and the outside world at all times
- B. We will need internet connectivity during the trip but not every day or in our rooms
- C. It would be nice to get some internet connectivity during the trip but not essential
- D. We want to be away from modern life altogether

3. Malaria & Health

This is about your attitude to the possible health risks of safari.

- A. We do not want to go to a malarial area
- B. We would prefer a low or non-malarial area, but we'll make some trade-offs in order to visit certain destinations. Ideally, we would choose to travel at a lower risk time.
- C. We want to go to certain destinations and know that means we will have to take precautions. But we would feel happier if we were fairly close to medical facilities.
- D. We are happy to take anti-malaria tablets and get covered up. We are keen to get right away from civilization. Though we appreciate that there are health risks, we will get the necessary jabs and tablets as we feel that there are risks on any type of holiday





5. Bug Life

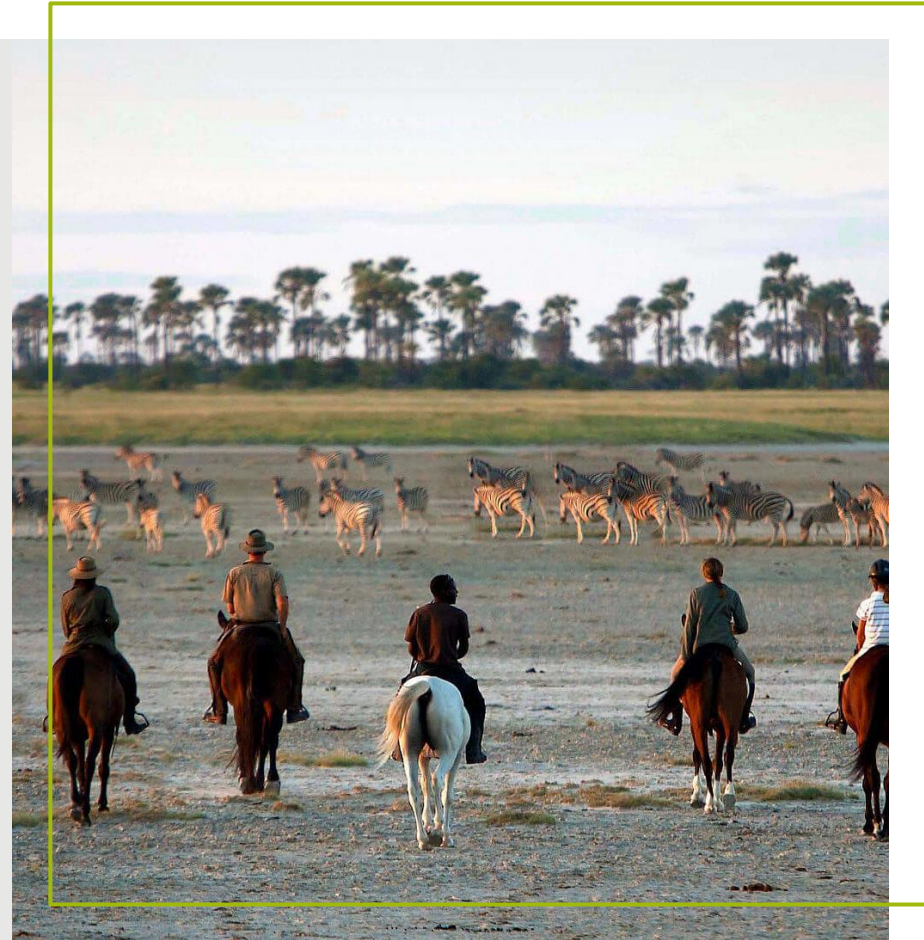
This question focuses on insects, but not from a point of view of their likely risk to you, but more your attitude to them. This covers insects, spiders, lizards, geckos...

- A. My kid, wife, husband freaks out if there are any insects about
- B. We are not crazy about insects, spiders and so on but understand that this is a necessary part of visiting many African destinations
- C. We have no real fear of insects
- D. We are not afraid of insects and bugs; in fact, my kids are really into them. (We have a pet spider at home.)

6. Remoteness

Remoteness is judged by how long it takes to get to a particular safari lodge or even to the wildlife destination. Obviously, we have to generalise here. Within a country there may be some very remote safari areas and others which are less so. This is a judgement call based on our experiences.

- A. We'd like a safari lodge which is easily accessible with not too much travelling from the nearest airport (and not too much hassle to get to that airport either)
- B. We are happy to visit a Safari destination which is accessible either by a light charter flight or a longer road transfer (more than two hours)
- C. We are comfortable travelling some longer distances to get somewhere (such as 3 to 4 hours) or needing a combination of flight or road transfers. But not all the time.
- D. We love going to remote places where you feel like you are the only people around for miles and miles. The journey there is part of the adventure, and we are comfortable travelling for longer distances as part of the trip.





7. Kids programmes and Variety at the Safari Lodge

There are two aspects to this. Some family-friendly safari lodges, mainly in South Africa, have a structured family programme with lots of activities. At some lodges, this is orientated towards younger kids but at other lodges, kids of all ages are catered for. Other lodges have a kids' room with toys, games, books and so on.

The other aspect is variety. Some lodges have a diverse set of activities that kids can get involved in. However, be careful here, as some safari activities such as walking or mokoro trips have an age restriction. You will need to chat to your safari consultant about what's possible for your kids.

- A. My kids are quite young so structured kids' activities would be great
- B. My kids get bored easily, so they need to be kept entertained with activities
- C. We like to do a variety of different safari activities if possible. It's great if some board games and kids' books are on offer
- D. We really enjoy seeing wildlife and are happy to spend time as a family when not on safari. We bring our own games, so we are pretty self-sufficient

8. Variety in the Overall Trip

In my opinion, this is an important one. Some destinations or countries are primarily orientated around safaris. You may visit different areas, but you are also 'on safari'. Others can offer some varied interludes such as a visit to the beach or a stunning waterfall. Finally, for some African countries, the safari can be just one part of an overall trip.

- A. We like to see and experience a little bit of everything, so we want to combine our safari with other sight-seeing
- B. We love to be kept on the go the whole time so combine a safari with lots of adventurous activities elsewhere as well, or choose a safari destination with lots of variety
- C. We like the idea of a 'bush and beach safari'
- D. We are really into the wildlife so are happy with a mainly safari trip



Results

See below for more on each area

Nearly all A's

We recommend the Eastern Cape, Waterberg or Garden Route in South Africa

Mostly A & B

Again, probably South Africa still, but perhaps KwaZulu Natal or Madikwe

Mix of A, B & C

South Africa, the Kruger Park and its game reserves

Mix of B, C & D

Now we start getting some other African countries in the mix. We suggest you consider Kenya, Botswana, Malawi or Namibia

Mix of mostly C & D

Look at Tanzania and Zambia



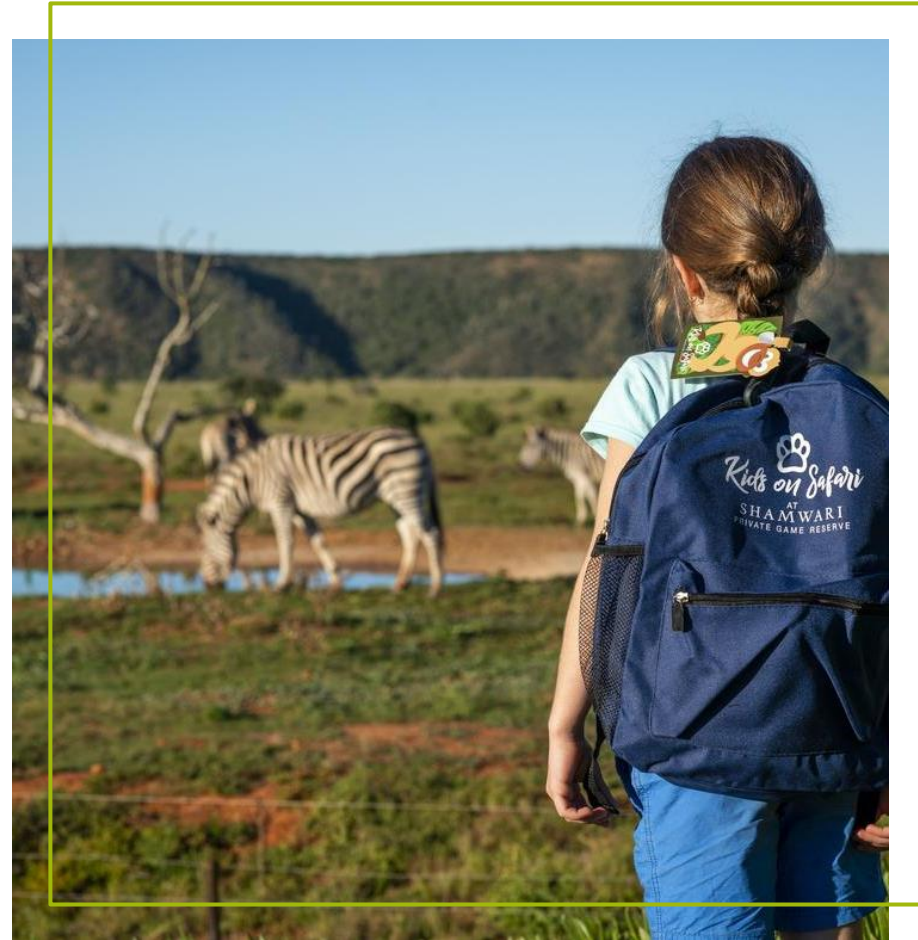
Family Safari Destinations in a Snapshot

Pros & Cons

So now hopefully you have a shortlist of possible destinations. Some you may know; some you might have never considered...

There are important differences between each destination which may be similar on many fronts but differ in one crucial area. So I suggest that you head back into our website (using the links provided) to check out the destinations in more detail.

However, as life is short, I've given a brief snapshot of each area in terms of family safaris.



A zebra is shown in profile, facing left, in a natural savanna environment. The background is a soft-focus landscape with dry grass and trees. A semi-transparent dark grey rectangular box is overlaid on the zebra's body, containing white text. The text is centered and reads "4 - Family Safari Destinations" on the top line and "- South Africa" on the bottom line. The entire image is framed by a thin green border.

4 - Family Safari Destinations - South Africa



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Main Family Safari Destinations

South Africa

 Kruger & Private Game Lodges

 KwaZulu Natal

 Garden Route & Eastern Cape

 Madikwe

 Waterberg

Kenya

Namibia

Malawi

Botswana

Zambia

Tanzania



So now you have got some tips under your belt, let's look briefly at some of the main family safari destinations in Africa.

This is not exhaustive as we've gone into detail on our website, But it gives you an overview.

South Africa

South Africa is attractive as a family safari destination because it's so easy to combine a safari with other family activities. It's also the only family safari destination which offers malaria-free safaris. Read our article on [Malaria Free Game Reserves in South Africa](#).

Here's a synopsis on the main safari destinations within South Africa:

 Kruger & Private Game Lodges

 Garden Route & Eastern Cape

 Waterberg

 KwaZulu Natal

 Madikwe



Though the image of vast open African plains scattered with baobab and fever trees fits the north of South Africa, the rest of the country offers a unique diversity of captivating landscapes.

Take a look at South Africa on our website [HERE!](#)



Kruger & Private Game Lodges

- Probably the best game-viewing in South Africa.
- A malarial area but somewhat seasonal, so there is a much lower risk in dry, winter months. Can be very accessible or have sense of remoteness depending on the safari lodge chosen.
- Huge variety of lodges with varying comfort levels, 21st century creature comforts, family programmes and so on. It really helps to have an experienced safari consultant to advise you on which lodge will suit your family best.



The Greater Kruger is the safari destination for many of our guests. The park itself is vast and encompasses many diverse biospheres. This ensures a diversity of wildlife on offer. But the Kruger offers an unsurpassed concentration of wildlife.

Take a look at the Kruger on our website [HERE!](#)



KwaZulu Natal

- One of my favourite areas of South Africa
- Malaria-free
- Easy to combine with other interests such as nearby beaches, hiking, cultural interest
- Sense of African bush, but still fairly accessible
- Some lodges offer lots of activities such as boating, fishing, walking, as well as game drives
- Good game viewing. But varies by lodge and reserve. (Greater Kruger still has the edge).



The private game reserves and lodges of KwaZulu Natal are not as well known as those in the Kruger Park. But they are definitely worth considering, especially if you want to follow your safari with a beach holiday.

Take a look at KZN on our website [HERE!](#)



Garden Route & Eastern Cape

- The most accessible area for safaris linked to Cape Town
- Easy to mix safari and other activities – beach, soft adventure, sight seeing
- Rarely has a sense of remoteness - with a couple of notable exceptions (Kwandwe, Sanbona)
- Malaria-free
- Many lodges have children's programmes and creature comforts
- Good game viewing, but depends on the lodge & reserve
- Doesn't feel very 'African' – you don't really feel you are in the bush



Take a look at the **Garden Route** on our website [HERE](#).

Take a look at the **Eastern Cape** on our website [HERE](#).



Madikwe

- More remote area in terms of distance, but quite a variety of lodges
- Malaria-free
- Many lodges have children's programmes and plenty of creature comforts
- Good game viewing, probably second only to Greater Kruger



Madikwe is not the most accessible of game reserves. As it is a 4+ hour drive from Johannesburg. But you can opt to fly-in and out instead. Or why not combine a Madikwe safari with the Pilanesberg or Marakele National Park in the same broad area.

Take a look at Madikwe on our website [HERE!](#)



Waterberg

- Specialist area, great for horse-riding safaris
- Plenty of private safari houses offering exclusive use for one family party.
- Malaria-free and an easy driving distance from Johannesburg.
- Moderate to good game-viewing, with fewer predators. But variation by lodge.



The Waterberg is known for its luxurious and romantic game lodges as well as a number of family friendly safari options. The Waterberg safari options include Welgevonden Private Game Reserve and Marakele.

Take a look at Waterberg on our website [HERE!](#)





5 - Family Safari Destinations – Other Countries



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Kenya

- Probably one of the easiest destinations for Family Safaris after South Africa.
- Great game-viewing in the Masai Mara as well as Laikipia and Samburu.
- Northern Hemisphere Summer holidays coincide with the the migration in Kenya.
- Fairly easy to get around with good network of flights.
- Varied activities at many lodges: game drives, horse-riding, camel rides, village visits.
- There are no malaria-free game reserves in Kenya.
- Plenty of options to head to more remote areas if inclination and budget allow.



Kenya is arguably the classic safari destination in Africa. There is nowhere to compare with a Kenya luxury safari for its diversity of landscapes, eco-systems and wildlife. It is a timeless combination of tropical beaches and renowned wildlife. Take a look at Kenya on our website [HERE!](#)



Namibia

- Namibia is a unique family destination – it will suit some families perfectly, others not at all!
- On the plus side: it offers lots of variety as a destination, it has a great sense of remoteness, it is low to non-malarial with a small high-risk area in the north.
- But size means long driving times (or expensive charter flights), so it depends on you and your children's travelling abilities!
- There's a great range of lodges to choose from to suit your budget and your preferred comfort levels. Some lodges are on Namibian farms so that your kids can get a sense of farming life in Namibia.
- It can be very hot, often over 40°C (104°F), so choose a time that suits your temperament.



Namibia offers an exhilarating and varied safari experience. From the vast Etosha salt pan, to the shimmering dunes of Sossusvlei and the Namib Desert, to the waterways of the Caprivi. Take a look at Namibia on our website [HERE!](#)



Malawi

- Malawi has lots to offer families looking for a remote, yet varied, destination.
- As with Botswana, you often have a sense that you are far from modern life, and yet the flights and road connections are pretty easy.
- Lake Malawi, the Nyika Plateau, the tea plantations and the Game Reserves offer a safari holiday with plenty of variety, especially for older kids.
- Very easy to combine Zambia and Malawi.



If you enjoy combining a safari with some relaxation beach and if you like to meet the local people in an uncontrived way, then a Malawi holiday could be perfect for you.

Take a look at Malawi on our website [HERE!](#)



Botswana

- Botswana is a great option for family safaris ... as long as the budget allows!
- Great game viewing destination
- Although the safari camps feel very remote as they are far from villages or city life, the travelling distances involved are not great.
- Although a malarial area, much of Botswana is fairly low risk as there are so few people in the safari areas.
- Some camps offer children's programmes but, as a whole, Botswana is ideal for families who don't need organised activities.



Botswana is one of Africa's last pristine lands and offers its visitors beautiful scenery and prolific big game in equal measure. From the watery paradise of the Okavango Delta, to the majestic baobab trees of the Kalahari, it is a gem.

Take a look at Botswana on our website [HERE!](#)



Zambia

- Zambia shares many of the benefits of Botswana. However, it is a high-risk malaria area.
- Perfect for families with older children who are happy with longer flights and transfer times.
- Offers a number of Safari Houses which can be taken on an exclusive use basis.
- As in Botswana, some camps offer children's programmes but generally it's ideal for families who like to 'do their own thing'.
- There are no malaria free game reserves in Zambia.



A Zambia safari offers the essence of Africa with some of the finest wildlife experiences in Africa. It also delivers one of its greatest rivers: the Zambezi. Zambian game reserves are truly wild and remote.

Take a look at Zambia on our website [HERE!](#)



Tanzania

- Tanzania is one of Africa's premier wildlife safari destinations, , with natural features such as the Great Rift Valley, Ngorongoro Crater and the Serengeti, which your children will recognise from geography lessons.
- Most families will have their own dedicated 4x4 vehicle and safari guide, rather than shared game drives which are the norm in Southern Africa.
- It's perfect for fairly 'self-sufficient' families with kids who don't need much extra entertaining.
- It's relatively easy to travel around but sometimes longish road transfers and full day game drives are called for.
- A few days at the beach is an easy addition on exotic Zanzibar.
- Spending time with the local Masai is enlightening for children of all ages.
- There are no malaria free game reserves in Tanzania.



A Tanzania safari offers abundant wildlife in world famous locations such as the Ngorongoro Crater and the Serengeti.

Take a look at Tanzania on our website [HERE!](#)



A family of four is silhouetted against a vibrant sunset over a large body of water. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a golden glow across the sky and reflecting on the water. The family consists of a woman on the left, a child in the middle, and a man on the right, with another child partially visible behind the man. They are standing on a rocky shore, looking out at the water. The sky is filled with soft, colorful clouds in shades of orange, yellow, and blue. A tree branch with some leaves is visible in the upper right corner.

6 - Next Steps



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Go on a Family Safari NOW!

We hope that this family safari quiz and guide has been useful so now

Answer our Quiz

Read our synopsis of each destination's pros and cons as far as family safaris are concerned

Check out our destination pages on our website and decide which most appeals to YOU

Contact Us or another reputable specialist tour operator to plan your family safari with you

Have a great Holiday!

Talk to us about a Safari
for you Family



About The Author

Kate Bergh is South Africa Managing Director of Cedarberg Africa, a specialist safari company that she co-founded with her sister Ginny. We help people who are unsure where to turn to for friendly well-informed safari planning.

Kate has lived in South Africa since 1993. She's travelled extensively to the countries marketed by Cedarberg travelling mostly by herself or with colleagues. She especially likes some of the more remote areas such as Coastal Maputaland, the Makgadikgadi pans and the Lower Zambezi. Her home is in the Cedarberg mountains in the Cape (hence the name of the company) where she enjoys hiking and cycling. She has three children who were used shamelessly, when younger, as guinea pigs to test out the family appeal of various South African hotels and safari lodges.



Thank you!

Spectacular by Nature, Personal by Design

This Family Safari guide was created by Cedarberg Africa, specialist safari operator

We'll design an individual safari just for you so that you get the family safari you've always dreamed of. But without wasting hours of precious time navigating the endless possibilities. If you're looking for an authentic and magical safari experience, Cedarberg Africa can help you.

Have questions? Schedule a time to chat or email us at:

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