

10 Secrets Only Experienced Safari Travelers Know

Discover how to make your African safari unforgettable!



ONE NINER EXPEDITIONS



Hi, I'm Joshua Lawes, founder of One Niner Expeditions. I design private, bespoke safaris across Southern Africa, combining wildlife, conservation, and authentic experiences. Over the years, I've learned first hand tips that make a safari unforgettable and here are my top 10 secrets.





Secret 1: Timing is Everything



Safari magic depends on timing. In Southern Africa, the dry season (May through October) offers the best wildlife sightings as animals gather around waterholes.

For Victoria Falls in Zambia, the high-water season from February to May delivers dramatic, powerful views. While September to November offers lower water levels for walking trails and adventure activities





Secret 2: Luxury Doesn't Mean Predictable



Luxury isn't just about 5-star lodges. What makes a safari special is creating unique, unforgettable experiences. Combine high-end accommodations with overlanding safaris, private guides, and exclusive conservation access for a journey that is as thrilling as it is comfortable.





Secret 3: Wildlife Moments Happen Off the Beaten Path



The most unforgettable wildlife encounters often happen away from the crowds. Private guides know hidden trails and remote areas, giving you the opportunity to experience elephants, lions, and other wildlife in their natural habitats.

At One Niner Expeditions, we partner exclusively with highly skilled and trusted guides who share the same sense of adventure and deep passion for wildlife.





Secret 4: Conservation Experiences Change Everything



Step behind the scenes with the Black Mambas Anti-Poaching Unit, the world's first all-female anti-poaching team, and gain rare insight into the realities of protecting Africa's wildlife. From guided patrols to personal interactions, you'll experience the dedication, challenges, and impact of life on the frontlines.

This is more than a safari, it's a chance to understand conservation at its core and be part of something that truly makes a difference





Secret 5: Packing Smart is a Game Changer



Packing for a safari is both practical and refined. Focus on lightweight, breathable clothing in neutral tones like khaki, olive, and beige, along with sun protection, comfortable footwear, and a proper wide-brimmed hat for sun protection.

Don't forget a warm layer, early mornings on safari, especially during the winter months (May–August), can be surprisingly cold. Smart packing ensures you're prepared for every moment, morning game drives to relaxed evenings in camp.



Secret 6: Personalized Itineraries Are Worth It



No two travelers are the same and your safari shouldn't be either. A personalized itinerary allows you to move beyond standard routes and experience Africa in a way that reflects your interests and pace. Whether it's luxury lodges in Hoedspruit, overlanding through Kruger, or ending your journey at Victoria Falls in Zambia. Every detail is thoughtfully designed around you.





Secret 7: Photographs Matter



A safari offers some of the most incredible photographic moments in the world, bringing a camera is highly recommended. From close wildlife encounters to sweeping landscapes, every moment has the potential to be captured.

For those looking to take it further, we offer private wildlife photography safari courses. Working alongside our experienced cameraman to help you refine your skills and capture truly unforgettable images.





Secret 8: Early Planning Unlocks the Best Experiences



Booking your safari early ensures access to exclusive lodges and experiences during peak seasonal wildlife sightings. Most of our safaris are booked 6–12 months in advance, with a minimum of 3 months out to secure availability. Planning ahead allows us to craft tailored itineraries that maximize your adventure and guarantee the most unforgettable safari memories.





Secret 9: Travel With Experts, Not Just Guides



Your safari experience is elevated when you travel with experts who know the land, wildlife, and conservation work intimately. At One Niner Expeditions, our founder and team have boots-on-the-ground experience with anti-poaching units and decades of combined guiding expertise.

We partner exclusively with highly skilled local guides who share our passion for wildlife and adventure, ensuring every sighting, interaction, and story is authentic and impactful.



Secret 10: Safari Memories Last a Lifetime



Your safari is more than a trip, it's a story you'll treasure forever.

From breathtaking sunsets to intimate wildlife encounters, every moment is designed to create lasting memories. With our expert guidance, you'll explore Africa's wild places in ways few ever experience, connecting deeply with the landscapes, animals, and local communities. Every sight, sound, and encounter becomes a part of your story, leaving you with photos, memories, and experiences that will stay with you for a lifetime.





Let Us Design Your Dream Safari



Step off the beaten path and into Africa's wild heart. With immersive wildlife encounters, conservation experiences, and expert guidance.

Your safari isn't just a trip. It's a journey that leaves a lasting impact, for you and the wild places you visit. Let's create memories that will stay with you forever.

- Fill out our short questionnaire to share your interests
- Schedule a 20-minute Zoom call with our founder
- Begin planning the adventure of a lifetime!!!



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