



Safari Accommodations Explained

Planning a safari, you will encounter a few types of accommodation types that you might not know of; quirky and beautiful they are all great in a safari kind of way.

Safari Lodges

A lodge is usually a large, solid structure made from stone, bricks, timber, and thatch, but one that still blends in with the surrounding landscape. Lodges tend to have more amenities, such as swimming pools, separate bar, and restaurant areas, fire pits, bomas, libraries, and even sometimes even gyms and spas. Bathrooms will have hot water on tap, running showers, and flushing loos. Lodges are not necessarily luxurious; they are certainly 'solid' (which for some might be important), but they can still be basic in terms of service and style.



Generally, they give a slightly more “filtered” and less immersive experience. But they are a great option for those that are a little nervous about sleeping in the bush.

Permanent Tented Camps

Camps will usually be tented – either full canvas tents or structures with canvas walls and a solid roof and floor for example – and generally with fewer rooms than a lodge.



These can be bigger and more luxurious than any safari lodge, spacious with sturdy furniture and elaborate lighting inside and large decks or verandas and comfy seating areas outside. As for communal areas, there will almost certainly be a dining and lounge area at a camp, and often a bar, library, and usually a swimming pool too. If you're looking for an accommodation option with all the comfort of a lodge but more intimate, and usually offering a better safari experience, then a permanent camp will suit you best.



Mobile tented camps

The little sister of the camp, a bush camp is exactly that – a teeny, tiny version of a camp. Tented and with a very small number of rooms, bush camps are incredibly private and designed to give you a real, return-to-the wild experience.



Most are built in remote areas that may be inaccessible for part of the year; at this time, the bush camp will usually be broken down and then rebuilt for the start of the next season. Facilities vary but you can expect en-suite bathrooms (complete with showers, either bucket or running & loos either flushing or ecological), large, super-comfy beds, great food, included drinks and plenty of little extras in the main area. If being completely surrounded by the wilderness and dining under the stars is your idea of luxury, then you can't get much better than a bush camp. If you're thinking of checking out the great migration of the Serengeti, we highly recommend a mobile tented camp to really get up close and personal with the wildebeest.



Mobile walking camps or fly camps

A mobile walking camp is set up as part of an expedition most for two or three nights. There's no denying that fly camps are the simpler accommodations you'll find on safari, but that's a part of the charm. Think walk-in, no-frills tents, modest beds, or comfy bedrolls and outdoor bucket showers and loos in a private enclosure to the back.



Meals are usually enjoyed around the camp fire or under the stars. In some fly camps, there isn't even a tent on offer and instead, you'll sleep on a bedroll under a mosquito net, watching the night sky unfold above you.

