

Wild Frontiers Tanzania Camps – Guest Info

Dear Guest,

Many people have asked us how we manage to operate our camps to such a high standard in the middle of the bush. The below may be of interest, and help explain a few things.

The whole idea of a mobile, or seasonal camp, is to make use of an area in a non invasive, non damaging way. We are, after all, operating inside National Parks, and in some of the most pristine areas on the planet. No one wants to be responsible for damaging areas like this - certainly not us, or the relevant Conservation Authorities.

Whilst all operators are meant to work under certain guidelines, we like to exceed this in our operations - both from a moral obligation and in an effort to get back to the "spirit of safari " which we feel is sadly lacking lately.

Seasonal camps - such as Serengeti and Ngorongoro Wilderness Camps - are allocated for three month periods, and no permanent structures are allowed. Once we move out, the areas are "rested " to recover until used again.

Each area of a camp set up is noted below and reasons and operational systems and goals noted.

TENTS

A tent in place for any length of time kills the grass under it. We try to mitigate this by having our shower and veranda areas, and floors in the mess and lounge tents made of open weave ground sheets. This allows the grass to survive and even grow more while we are on site - and a few weeks after leaving a site, these areas are " back to normal ".

TOILETS

The mobile toilets we use, in frames or " thunderboxes ", are emptied each day into a large central long drop at the back of camp, which is then filled in on our departure so as not to be an eyesore etc. Individual flushing toilets are NOT allowed - and we'd not use them if they were, as it leaves many smaller shallow soak pits all over the site, which are horribly unhygienic. We also do not use any chemicals in our " chemical " toilets, just plain scented water, as the chemicals take ages to degrade.

SHOWERS AND WATER

All our water for the camps has to be trucked in, sometimes from as far away as 40 km. It is at a premium - apart from the cost of transporting it, we do not do much good to the roads while fetching it either. Use it wisely!

The water you use has cost a lot of carbon to get it to you. This is one of the reasons we do not wash towels each day, or offer a laundry service unless in camp for a long period etc.

Bucket showers work well if you know how to use them - and it's simple. GET WET - TURN OFF - WASH - RINSE OFF. If you don't do this, they run out.

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serengeti
WILDERNESS CAMP

ngorongoro
WILDERNESS CAMP

LIGHTING

We use solar charged LED lights, which are perfect for what they do - you can read in bed etc and find your way around at night in the tent. They are eco-friendly too. Kerosene lamps and candles are also used. Torches in the tents are of the wind up type - which saves us disposing of batteries etc.

In the mess tents at the camps there is a central charging area for phones / cameras etc - also solar powered - or you can charge while on game drives in the vehicles.

And you do not have that horrible generator noise at night while you should be listening to the nocturnal sounds of the wilderness.

GENERATORS

We have a back up generator if needed, but it is hardly ever used - sometimes to charge batteries if no sun for a few days only. I personally hate the noise of generators in the bush, it's not what we come into the bush for.

KITCHEN

We cook and refrigerate using gas. All burnable waste is incinerated (vegetable peelings etc), and this also heats water for showers and washing etc . We use everything we can to heat water - old lunch boxes etc - and this helps lessen our use of wood and charcoal for this purpose.

We have a monthly supply run from Arusha which brings in food / drinks / charcoal etc, and takes out all our non-burnable waste for proper disposal outside the park.

We use small amounts of wood for the evening campfire etc - it, too, is at a premium and should not be wasted.

Between supply runs, we make use of local suppliers outside the park to ship us vegetables etc on public transport - which gives them good business and saves on our big trucks damaging the roads.

STAFF

Our crew for the seasonal camps are well looked after, and have a great staff camp to live in. They also get regular leave back in town, so are fresh and happy when they are out in the bush. They are also paid in the "off " season, while on leave. These are a special bunch of guys, and they love being out in the camps. They work hard behind the scenes, and we hope you appreciate the work they put in. Our mobile camp crew are also a great team, hard working and keen to make your stay in our camps a very special time for you.

SECURITY

You are safe in your tent - if it is closed - but you may hear animals wandering around the camp late at night - relax and enjoy it, but do not wander around alone after dark please. We do have an askari in the camp at night, and a whistle in your tent if you need to get him (or wake up your neighbours!).

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CONCLUSION

No one can claim to be 100% "green", but we are trying - both in the bush and in our head offices in SA, Tanzania and Uganda.

You may find a few things a bit foreign to your usual lifestyle - such as having to call for a shower etc and wait for it. But, you are in AFRICA, and in the wilderness. These few minor lifestyle changes - which you can get used to pretty fast - are a small price to pay for the pleasure of being in a small, quiet, eco-friendly camp with great food and good people looking after you - we always say that in a camp in Africa you are on a 24 hour a day safari, as the bush is all around you all the time there is nothing better than a good scotch around the campfire in the evening with the sound of distant lions in the background.

We hope you enjoy

John Addison
Director
Wild Frontiers

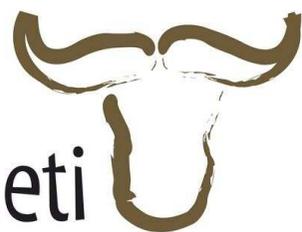
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