



TRAVELING STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE

FROM BIRMINGHAM TO ATLANTA

1. Have your driver go to the Level 2 Departure area driveway of Birmingham Airport.
2. Park at second Delta entrance. Unload your gear and have driver proceed to the Cell Phone Parking lot and wait there until you have cleared security just in case you need to have them pick you up.
3. Proceed to the Delta desk.
4. Place checked luggage bag and firearm case on conveyor scale for weighing. An extra charge will be placed on you if either bag exceeds 52 pounds.
5. Present your passport and ticket confirmation code to the Delta representative.
6. You may be required to present COVID-19 documentation depending on the status of regulations. Check websites for most current regulations.
7. Boarding passes for both upcoming flights are issued.
8. Baggage is tagged to be transported to Johannesburg.
9. You will be required to open the firearm case and place an orange Delta card in the case that states that the firearm(s) are unloaded. The Delta representative does not inspect your firearm or confirm that it is unloaded. You do not have to remove the firearm and demonstrate an empty chamber. This is the only time that you will have an inspection of the firearms until you reach Johannesburg. No TSA official examines your firearms at this time but they will run the firearm case through a scanner prior to loading on the plane. They will not open your firearm case.
10. Re-lock the firearm case and place it back on the luggage conveyor. The next time you see your firearm case will be at the South African Police station at Johannesburg Airport.
11. The Delta representative will be reading from their screen on what is required for you to travel to South Africa and they may ask for your SAP 520 firearm permit. Inform the Delta representative that this permit is issued in South Africa upon your arrival there and that the permit is not necessary for the flight.
12. The Delta representative may inform you that you must complete a South Africa Health Survey form. This form is not necessary for departure and the form is distributed by flight attendants just before your landing in Johannesburg. The form asks if you are running a fever and are sick.
13. Proceed to the TSA security screening area.
14. Present passport and boarding pass to the TSA officer controlling entry.
15. Proceed to scanning area.
16. All bags, shoes, and personal items are placed in trays and scanned.
17. You are body scanned.
18. Proceed to departure gate for your flight.
19. Try to be in the first part of the line of your seat boarding zone. These Birmingham to Atlanta planes are small and there is heavy competition for overhead storage of your carry-on bag. If the overhead bins fill up they will force you to check your carry-on bag and the next time you see it will be at the Johannesburg baggage carousel.

IN FLIGHT – FROM ATLANTA TO OR TAMBO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT JOHANNESBURG

1. This is a very long flight (15+ hours) and it can be mentally and physically brutal but the reward at the end negates all pain. Toughen up and relax, you will be able to endure the flight.
2. You will be fed a full dinner soon after take off. Midway through the flight you will be given a sandwich. Near the end of the flight you will be fed another full meal. Maybe not the most tasty but you definitely should not be left hungry.
3. Multiple times during the flight you will be offered beverages and water. Stay well hydrated and make multiple trips to urinate and it may reduce any tendency for leg and feet swelling.
4. The in-flight entertainment is provided through your own personal video screen located on the back of the seat in front of you. Three hundred plus movies are available and you should have no trouble finding something you can tolerate.
5. After the first meal the cabin is darkened so that passengers may begin attempts at sleep. Sometimes this is successful and other times not so successful. Your personal method of sleep may include a combination of special pillows, sleep aid medication, ear plugs, reclining seat, and other personal secrets. It is important to try to get some rest as this flight usually leaves late in the evening after you have already put in a full day.
6. Try to gauge your sleep times to take into account that you will be arriving about 5pm in Johannesburg. If you slept too much in flight you may have trouble getting back on schedule.
7. Flight attendants may issue some forms for you to fill out and be presented to officials in Johannesburg. These forms change from time-to-time and usually revolve around health inquiries and import declarations.
8. Get up and move every 2 to 3 hours. If you sit for extended periods problems can arise.
9. It will be difficult to access your carry-on bag in the overhead bin during flight. Things you truly need should have been placed in your personal bag at your seat.
10. For your first flight to Africa a window seat can be a visual treat. You will likely be flying over Angola, Namibia, and Botswana before reaching South Africa.

ARRIVAL AT OR TAMBO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT JOHANNESBURG

1. Subject to current COVID-19 restrictions at time of your arrival you may be required to wear a mask as you de board the plane.
2. Your VIP representative will be standing at the plane's exit with your name on a placard. He will assist you through all procedures of the entry process.
3. You will present the health survey form you filled out to an airport official and that official will temperature scan your forehead for signs of fever. Do not have fever upon arrival. Take recommended dosages of Tylenol or Advil during the prior flight to alleviate any symptoms of fever. If you have fever, you will most likely be sent to a medical station and a rapid COVID-19 test will be administered.
4. The VIP representative will walk you through South Africa customs as your passport is examined and stamped. You may be asked to produce your letter of invitation.
5. After your passport is stamped the VIP representative will then lead you to collect your checked luggage bag.
6. The VIP representative will lead you to the South Africa Police (SAP) station located outside the passenger arrival area. Your firearm case will have been moved from the plane to the police station.
7. At this point your PH or the transport driver will also meet you.
8. Paperwork (SAP 520 form) that you had previously submitted to the VIP service will be finalized by the SAP.
9. You will be required to open the firearm case so that SAP officials can verify serial numbers on the firearms.
10. You will sign the SAP form and a logbook concerning this process. There is no South Africa government fee for the gun permit.
11. You will be given a copy of the SAP 520 form and this form acts as your gun permit while in South Africa. DO NOT lose this permit as it is required to get your firearms back out of South Africa.
12. You are free to exit the airport with your luggage and firearm case.
13. The PH or the transport driver will take you to the next point of your trip.

FROM OR TAMBO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT JOHANNESBURG TO STIRLING SAFARIS

1. Stirling Safaris's main camp is a 6-7 hour drive from the Johannesburg Airport. Delta flights from Atlanta arrive in late afternoon and it is totally dark by the time you complete the customs and firearm permit process. A prolonged night drive is not undertaken due to tiredness of driver and passengers. Night driving can also be very hazardous due to risk of collision with cattle, donkeys, and wild antelope which are often in the roadway.
2. After you leave the airport, you will be taken to dinner and then to a lodge for an overnight stay in the neighbouring city of Pretoria.
3. The following morning you will be served breakfast at the lodge and then proceed on the road trip to Stirling. You will be taking a northwest course to the Northwest Province of South Africa and Stirling is just shy of the Botswana border.
4. The town of Lichtenburg is near the halfway point of the journey and you will stop there for lunch and collection of supplies needed for camp.
5. Lichtenburg is Roland's childhood town and his dad, brother, and many of his closest friends live there. Some of these friends and relatives may join you for lunch.
6. The second half of the drive takes you through several terrain transitions and you will see some truly beautiful and diverse landscapes.
7. The last 1 1/2 to 2 hours of the trip is conducted on unpaved roads. Hang on and brace yourself for a few potholes.
8. You will arrive at Stirling in early to mid-afternoon. After getting settled into your room you will be taken out to shoot your rifle(s) to see if the sighting remained true during transport.
9. Depending upon your time constraints and your trophy list, hunting may begin this afternoon. At the very least the remainder of the afternoon will be spent driving the concession and observing game animals.
10. A return to camp at dusk will find a warm fire and refreshments awaiting you. Chef Willing will serve you a spectacular meal and you will return to the outdoor fire to plan the following day's activities.
11. Good luck and happy hunting!

FROM STIRLING SAFARIS BACK TO OR TAMBO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT JOHANNESBURG

1. Delta flights from Johannesburg to Atlanta are currently leaving very late in the evening (near 10pm). There is time to drive from Stirling the morning of the flight and make it to the airport in plenty of time.
2. Depending on COVID-19 restrictions at the time of your flight you may have to present a negative PCR test in order to board a plane back to the States. If restrictions are still in place you will need to get to a testing facility in the airport by early afternoon to allow time for the testing process (1 1/2 to 3 hours).
3. There are restaurants and shops within the airport that you can visit while awaiting test results. The testing facility will notify you by email and text when the test results have been finalized. You will return to the testing facility to pick up a paper copy of your test results.
4. After you have received your negative test results you will proceed to the Delta check-in lines. The Delta booths open 4 to 5 hours before the flight time.
5. Delta officials will coordinate and instruct incoming passengers as to what line they need to get in according to the status level of your ticket.
6. As the line progresses toward the Delta check-in desk you may be required by Delta representatives working the floor to present your passport, PCR test, and flight confirmation code.
7. At the Delta check-in desk you will present your passport, PCR test, and flight confirmation code.
8. You will be issued boarding passes for both upcoming flights.
9. Place your checked luggage bag and the firearm case on the conveyor belt at the check-in desk.
10. Bar code transport tags will be placed on both items.
11. Your checked luggage bag will be sent for loading.
12. You will be given an orange Delta Firearm Unloaded tag to be held by you and then placed in the firearm case at the South Africa Police (SAP) firearms examination room which is just down the hallway behind the check-in desk. Do not open the firearm case at this time.
13. You will be instructed to pick up your firearm case and wait in the hallway behind the check-in desk. A certified firearms baggage clerk will escort you to the small SAP firearms examination room.
14. At the SAP room you will unlock and open your firearm case. You will present the SAP official with the SAP 520 form that you received upon your initial arrival.
15. The SAP official will verify that the serial numbers on the firearms match the serial numbers on the SAP 520 form. You may have to assist the official in finding where the serial numbers are stamped.
16. Place the orange Delta Firearms Unloaded tag within your firearm case and re-lock the case.
17. The SAP official will close out your gun permit.
18. You will be required to sign a logbook indicating that your permit has been closed. There is NO government fee associated with this process.
19. The SAP official will leave your firearm case in this locked room. The firearm case will be taken to the plane's cargo by firearms officials. You will see your firearm case next at the US Customs firearms kiosk in Atlanta airport.
20. Proceed down the hallway to security screening and passport stamping.
21. Follow signage to your boarding gate.
22. Spend your layover time shopping in the duty-free stores. Keep in mind that anything you purchase will have to fit in your carry-on bag. Items purchased will also have to pass a re-screening before boarding the plane.
23. Board flight to Atlanta as your seating group is called.
24. Many time the passengers and carry-on bags will undergo re-screening before boarding the plane.

IN FLIGHT – FROM OR TAMBO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT JOHANNESBURG TO ATLANTA

1. Welcome to the second half of your scheduled torture. Unfortunately, this flight is one to two hours longer than the flight coming over due to headwinds. Another misfortune of this leg of the trip is that you do not have the excitement of the upcoming hunt to provide you tolerance. Again just try to relax and endure.
2. Sometimes this flight depending on headwind conditions, passenger load, and cargo load requires the plane to stop for refuelling before arrival at Atlanta.
3. You will be fed a full dinner soon after take-off. Midway through the flight you will be given a sandwich. Near the end of the flight you will be fed breakfast.
4. Multiple times during the flight you will be offered beverages and water. Stay well hydrated and make multiple trips to urinate and it may reduce any tendency for leg and feet swelling.
5. Watch some movies that you didn't have time for on the previous flight.
6. Catch some sleep. You will be arriving in Atlanta very early in the morning and you do not wish to take on a full day without having slept.
7. Flight attendants may issue some forms that are to be submitted to US Customs officials upon your arrival. These forms change from time-to-time and usually revolve around import declarations.
8. Get up and move every 2 to 3 hours. If you sit for extended periods problems can arise.
9. It will be difficult to access your carry-on bag in the overhead bin during flight. Things you truly need should have been placed in your personal bag at your seat.

ARRIVAL IN ATLANTA AFTER FLIGHT FROM OR TAMBO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT JOHANNESBURG

1. After de-boarding the plane proceed to passport stamping.
2. US Customs agents will direct you where to go stand in line as you await passport review.
3. The passport review agent will scan/stamp your passport and then direct you for possible further US Customs screening or the agent may clear you to proceed to the baggage carousel and firearm receiving room.
4. The firearm receiving room is located just left as you enter the baggage carousel room.
5. Your checked luggage bag must be picked up by you at the luggage carousel room. Take your checked luggage bag with you to the firearm receiving room to await re-entry procedures for your firearm.
6. US Customs firearms officials will have you sign up on a list as you await firearm clearance.
7. Your firearm case will have been removed from the plane and then placed in the locked firearm receiving room.
8. You will have to wait your turn to enter the firearm receiving room as only one or two hunters at a time are allowed to enter the locked room.
9. When you are designated to enter the room take your firearm case off of the shelving and place the case on one of the examination tables. Unlock the case but DO NOT open the case.
10. The US Customs firearms official is the only one allowed to touch your firearm during this process. The official will open your case and examine the firearm.
11. Present your 4457-form to the official at this time and the official will verify that serial numbers match.
12. You will be instructed to lock your case and then take your case to firearms baggage handlers at the carousel room exit. There is no written documentation associated with this procedure. No copy of the 4457 form is made and the 4457-form is returned to you. There is no government fee for this procedure.
13. Before you leave the firearm receiving room you must give your hunting boots to a US Customs agent so that the agent can spray disinfectant on the boots to prevent the spread of African diseases to American livestock and game.
14. Take your checked baggage and firearm case out of the carousel room to the adjacent baggage re-check room.
15. Hand your checked luggage bag to the attendant on the left and he will place the bag on a conveyor for transport to your final destination.
16. Take your firearm case to the right side far corner of this room for additional screening. Officials in this area will test your case for explosive residue. The case will not be opened. They will then take possession of your firearm case and send it to be placed on your connecting flight. You will next see your firearm case in Birmingham.
17. Proceed through security screening to get back in the airport concourse for your connecting flight.

ATLANTA AIRPORT TO BIRMINGHAM AIRPORT

1. After you have passed through screening to get back in the Atlanta Airport concourse, check the electronic flight schedule board to see what concourse and gate your flight to Birmingham is leaving from.
2. Board the underground train and ride to your designated concourse.
3. Follow signage to the proper gate and await your flight.
4. Try to be in the first part of line for your boarding group. Overhead storage bins on these small commuter planes are limited and there is heavy competition for storage of your carry-on bag.
5. De-board at Birmingham and proceed to the lower-level baggage claim carousel.
6. Pick up your checked luggage bag from the carousel.
7. Your firearm case will be taken to the Delta Baggage Service room that is located in the corner of the luggage carousel room.
8. You must present ID to the Delta baggage agent in order to claim your firearm case.
9. There is no written documentation of this transaction and no government official is involved in this process.
10. The Delta baggage agent will place a nylon zip tie through one of the firearm case's lock holes to hamper opening of the case after you leave the Baggage Service room.
11. You may freely exit the airport with your luggage and firearm case.