

AFRICAN TRAVEL

Packing Guide





Expert Guide to Packing

AFRICAN TRAVEL'S CEO, LUCILLE SIVE loves sharing her safari knowledge. Enjoy her comprehensive guide to help you pack for your safari.

I have been on numerous safaris over the past years, and have packing down to a fine art! So, I thought I would share some of my suggestions and packing experience with you.

The weather conditions on safari can be cool at one time of day and mild later. I have found that being prepared with the right kind of clothing to protect you against dust, insects and hours of direct sunlight allows you to focus on your safari experience in comfort and style.

The summer months are November to April, with the hottest period being between October and February. Summers are generally warm to extremely hot but may still be cool in the early mornings. I highly recommend packing a lightjacket and warm cap (especially for game drives).By noon, the temperature is often very hot.

During winter (around May to August depending on the area) early mornings and evenings may be very cold, so pack a thick jacket, scarf, and cap if you are visiting in winter, along with closed shoes and socks. A pair of warm gloves will be useful, especially on game drives. Blankets are provided on vehicles for your use.



PICK THE RIGHT SAFARI LUGGAGE

The thing to remember when choosing safari luggage is mobility. You will be moving between several different modes of transport so plan accordingly. Suitcases with wheels don't work very well in the African bush.

Soft-sided bags are always a good choice as they can fit into a variety of storage compartments. A day pack is very handy to carry the items you need while driving around in the safari vehicle or walking through the bush.



BEFORE

You Start

A FEW IMPORTANT POINTS TO KEEP IN MIND BEFORE YOU START PACKING

- 1 Most safari lodges in Africa offer reasonably priced 24-hour laundry service.
- 2 Meals are informal at most safari lodges, so formal attire is not required.
- 3 A pair of binoculars may be useful.
- 4 There are curio shops at all the lodges, and these also stock basic travel accessories.
- 5 With only a 33-44 lbs (15-20 kg) allowance be sure to keep space for shopping.

BRING SAFARI READY CLOTHING

It is important to pack as sensibly as you can. Keep clothing colors as neutral and as light as possible. Pack lightweight and airy fabrics that are breathable and have moisture wicking properties. You will feel much more comfortable.

The temperatures out in the bush can vary greatly, so I say dress like an onion, in layers. Some of the camps offer a laundry service at a charge and some include the service, but certain camps will not wash underwear.



Lucille's Suggested Packing List



ACCESSORIES

- Good quality sunglasses - preferably polarized
- Sun hat that has a wide brim to provide complete coverage, it should allow your head to “breathe” – choose one that can be packed flat.

SAFARI CLOTHING

- Golf-shirts, T-shirts - short and long-sleeved cotton shirts
- Shorts
- Long trousers and pants as the evenings can be cool (they are also good for keeping mosquitoes and other insects at bay)
- Warm sweater / sweatshirt
- Warm waterproof jacket and scarf / gloves for cold winter months for the early mornings and after sunset
- Light rain gear for summer months
- Underwear, socks, and pajamas
- A pair of comfortable walking shoes for bush walks or when off the game drive vehicle, and a pair of slip-on shoes or sandals to wear around the lodge or to meals
- Bathing suit (towels are supplied by the lodges)

DON'T FORGET

- Your passport, make a copy of it and keep it in a safe place



OTHER USEFUL AND NECESSARY ITEMS

- **Prescribed medicine.** Bring enough to last your trip. Keep this packed in your hand luggage in case of baggage delays. Make copies of prescriptions just in case you need to refill.
- **Malaria medication.** Consult your doctor about medications before your trip and do not forget to pack it!
- **An extra pair of glasses.** These can be a lifesaver. It can be very dusty on safari, so if you wear contact lenses ensure that you have sufficient contact lens cleaning solution, as the dusty outdoor environment may require more frequent lens cleaning.
- **Laundry bags and packing cubes.** For wet washing/muddy shoes/organize clothes in suitcase.
- **Favorite toiletries.** Lodges supply you with amenities such as soap, shampoo, and body lotion. However, you may bring your favorite toiletries with you.
- **Hygiene Kit.** Toothbrush/toothpaste/dental floss, tweezers, lip balm, Q-tips and cotton balls, razor, and shaving cream/gel.
- **High SPF sunscreen.** Bring between 30 and 50 SPF.
- **Hand sanitizer**
- **Insect repellent.** This is provided by most game lodges - once the sun goes down the bugs come out.
- **Basic medical kit.** Aspirin, band aid, Imodium, antiseptic cream, after-bite type of cream and antihistamine cream). Some supplies might be available in the first aid kit that every safari company should carry. But just remember that while you are on safari, shops are few and far between, and very basic.
- **Waterproof/dust proof bags/cover** for your cameras
- **Plug adapters.** Generally in Africa it's 3-prong round or square. International adapters are available for purchase at the lodges.
- REMEMBER - your **cell phone** has a flashlight!



ESSENTIAL SAFARI TIPS

BINOCULARS & CAMERA

On safari everything you see is exciting, even the birds. Sometimes the animals are a little further away, so a pair of binoculars is always a good idea to bring, if you can afford the weight in your luggage. On the other hand, many lodges and guides will have binoculars in the vehicles.

Remember to pack a telephoto lens for your camera, if you have one, and a video camera, along with all the necessary plugs, chargers and memory cards.

GAME DRIVE ETIQUETTE

We have the utmost respect for the environment we are exploring. We want to protect it as well as ensure that you are safe. Please keep the following in mind:

- ✓ Do not stand up in game vehicle
- ✓ No smoking on the vehicle, there will be a break during the drive
- ✓ Cellphones should be on airplane mode while on a game drive. This is courtesy to other guests.
- ✓ No shouting
- ✓ No shirts off
- ✓ No littering

There is no access to a flush toilet while out on game drive, so a bush toilet is the only option. However, it is quite accepted to request the use of a bush toilet at any time.

BOOKS

If you want to get lost in the pages of Africa, we have an [Africa reading list](#). While on your game drive, if you're a keen birder, I suggest bringing **Newman's bird book** with you.

RECORD YOUR SAFARI EXPERIENCE

Lastly – a lot of people like to record their thoughts and feelings in a journal, on a blog or via social media. We love to see your safari pictures and invite you to share them with us.



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