

SAFARI PACKING

Guide



What To Pack for Safari

Smart packing will make all the difference on safari. With cool mornings and warmer afternoons, a few well-chosen layers and essentials will keep you comfortable throughout the day.

WHAT TO EXPECT

Safari climates vary by region and season.

From **November to April**, days are warm to very hot, with cooler mornings and evenings.

From **May to August**, early mornings and nights can be cold, particularly on game drives.

Layering is essential—pack light pieces you can easily add or remove during the day.

Meals are informal—no formal clothing required.

Many lodges offer reasonably priced **24-hour laundry service** (some may not wash underwear).

Shops at lodges carry basic travel items, but options are limited.

LUGGAGE TIPS

Luggage is typically restricted to **33–44 lbs (15–20 kg)**.

Opt for **soft-sided bags** - they fit easily in safari vehicles and are required for travel on bush planes.

Avoid hard suitcases with wheels—they are not practical in the bush.

Bring a **daypack** for cameras, sunscreen, and daily essentials.

Avoid using plastic bags as they are banned in some African countries, and choose eco-friendly alternatives.



CLOTHING ESSENTIALS

Neutral-colored safari clothing – khaki, beige, olive tones recommended.

Tops – golf shirts, T-shirts, and short- or long-sleeved cotton shirts.

Bottoms – shorts plus long trousers/pants (helpful for cooler evenings and insect protection).

Warm layers – sweater or sweatshirt.

Outerwear – rainjacket and warm waterproof jacket; add hat, scarf and gloves during colder winter months for early mornings and evenings.

Sleepwear & basics – underwear, socks, and pajamas.

Footwear – comfortable walking shoes plus slip-on shoes or sandals.

Accessories – wide-brim sun hat and quality sunglasses (preferably polarized).

Swimwear – bathing suit (towels are supplied by lodges).

DON'T FORGET

Prescription & travel medications – bring enough for the full trip, including malaria medication if recommended by your doctor; pack in carry-on and bring copies of prescriptions.

Glasses / contact lens supplies – plus an extra pair of glasses, as safari conditions can be dusty.

Toiletries & personal hygiene kit – lodges provide basics, but favorite personal items are recommended.

Sun & skin protection – high SPF sunscreen (30–50), lip balm, and insect repellent.

Basic health essentials – hand sanitizer, pain relief, bandaids, antiseptic, and after-bite treatment.

Organization items – laundry bags or packing cubes for separating clean and worn clothing.

Electronics essentials – cell phone (also useful as a flashlight), universal plug adapter, and waterproof/dust-proof bags.

Make a **copy of your passport** and keep it in a safe place



BINOCULARS & CAMERA

Wildlife sightings can vary in distance, so **binoculars are a great addition** if space allows—though many guides will have them available.

For photography, bring a **camera with a zoom or telephoto lens**, along with extra batteries, memory cards, and chargers. A dust-proof cover is also useful.

GAME DRIVE ETIQUETTE

Respect for wildlife and fellow travelers is essential.

Remain seated and follow your guide's instructions while the vehicle is in motion.

Keep noise to a minimum – avoid shouting, loud conversations, and keep cell phones on silent or airplane mode.

No smoking on the vehicle – designated breaks will be provided.

Leave no trace – do not litter.

Note: There are no restroom facilities during game drives—bush stops can be arranged when needed.

FINAL TIP

Pack light, stay comfortable, and enjoy every moment of your journey. We'd love you to share your safari memories with us at [@africantravelinc](#) and [#weknowafrica](#).