



What to Pack for Safari?

Packing for your first African safari can be quite a challenge. What do you need? What kind of clothes do you bring? Don't stress too much about what to pack. Just keep it simple and pack lightly. The luggage you can bring on safari vehicles or smaller planes is limited, and a lot of lodges and camps offer laundry services, so there is no need to bring different clothes for each day of your trip. Pack lightweight clothes and good sun protection. This is our advice on what you need for a safari in Tanzania

CLOTHING

The weather on a safari can change in the blink of an eye and changing multiple times during the trip would be a nightmare. However, when packing for your safari, remember that layers are your friend. Mornings can be a bit chilly. Start your layering with a simple T-shirt followed by a lightweight pullover. Depending on the season, you might want to add a cardigan or sweater to the outfit. Your final layer can be a simple button-down jacket as these tend to have more pockets for other necessities. Layering your clothing in this manner will give you the ability to account for any type of weather or outdoor conditions.

The Colour of your clothing should be taken into account as well. If you intend on heading out dressed head to toe in dark colors such as black, you will have a miserably journey. Think a little about colours while packing. Light colours reflect the sun while dark, bold colours absorb it. The best solution is to keep things neutral. Medium blues, greens, khaki, and light brown colours are often best. You do not want to attract the wrong type of attention of startle animals with loud, bright colours.

CHECK LIST

- Long-sleeved shirts and trousers: temperatures can drop at night and it keeps mosquitoes away and protects you from the sun.
- Shorts
- T-shirts
- Rain jacket
- Fleece jacket/ warm sweater
- Socks
- Hat: to protect your face from the sun
- Nice outfit: for dinners or when you spend time in a city
- Sarong: very useful for women to wrap around if you need to go to the toilet in the bush or after a swim.
- Swimsuit
- Sunglasses
- Daypack: a small one that you can take with you on daily tips the best thing is to wear layers of light breathable clothes. Mornings and evenings can be quite cool in Tanzania while during the day it can become pretty hot. Choose neutral colors to keep the bugs away and don't scare off the wildlife.

SUN PROTECTION

The sun will be a factor on your safari. It can be a friend or a foe depending on how well you account for its presence. If you have ever seen someone on television on a safari, you will first notice, they wear a hat. Just like when you are at the beach, a hat blocks a lot of the sun's rays and protects the sensitive skin on you face. A wide brimmed hat made of lightweight fabric is the best solution. Also, never leave home without sun block. When packing for your safari, do a little research. The best sunscreens for the type of rays you will be experiencing is manufactured in the area you will be visiting or rugged landscapes such as Australia.



SHOES FOR SAFARI

Among the most important things to bring on safari are shoes. Remember, you are packing for comfort and functionality, not really for fashion. Again, keep in mind colors recommended for your safari trip. They apply to shoes as well. As for the type, you will want a shoe that is comfortable to walk in without being too heavy. Many people choose the heaviest shoes only to realize after the fact, they have to carry that excess weight. Your feet will, ultimately get tired.

Instead choose a lightweight hiking shoe or boot. Experts recommend bringing, on average, 3 pairs of shoes. It seems that one always breaks, and you will be happy to have the extra options. A lightweight pair of shoes coupled with a highly absorbent pair of socks will keep your feet comfortable and dry. Another suggestion, leave the cute sandals and flip flops at home. Where you might think you want this type of footwear, you will soon realize, spiders, snakes, and other creepy, crawling things, will be attracted to those perfectly manicured toes.

CHECK LIST

- A pair of sneakers or trail runners: hiking shoes are only necessary if you are going to climb a mountain, otherwise, choose lighter shoes.
- Flip-flops or sandals: comfortable when you relax at your accommodation, go swimming or take a shower.

MEDICAL NEEDS

As with any trip, your medical needs should always be taken into account. Be sure to pack your prescription medication, along with a backup supply before embarking. Additional medical supplies include bandages (both simple stick and wrap style), over the counter pain medication, allergy medication, headache tablets, anti-itch cream, and anti-inflammatory medication. Unless you are staying in a high-end lodge, you will want to pack a full first aid kit to account for any possible injury while on the trip.

CHECK LIST

- Antidiarrheal medications
- Anti-malaria medications
- Hand sanitizer
- Painkillers like aspirin
- Nose spray
- Eye-drops: it can be very dusty on the African plains
- Plasters and anti-bacterial medicines
- Tweezer

TOILETRIES

- Pack the usual things like soap, toothpaste, shampoo, and conditioner, etc.
- Sunscreen
- After-sun lotion
- Bug spray/ insect repellent with DEET
- Lip balm with SPF
- Wet wipes: if you have to go to the toilet or clean anything during your safari

GADGETS/ELECTRONICS



- Camera
- Charger or/and batteries
- Extra memory card
- Headlamp/flashlight
- Phone: a lot of accommodations offer free WIFI
- Universal plug converters
- Binocular

Note. pack valuable electronics in a waterproof bag to protect it against dust and rains.

BOOKS

The journey into the safari can, and will be, an exciting one, but there will be some downtime as well. Many people are under the misconception that they can use their cell phone, like at home, to account for downtime. While your safari lodge may be offering wi-fi, often the connection is poor and unpredictable. That is why most safaris rely on radio powered devices for communication. This is the time to take things back about twenty years and pack a few good books. One or two books on your trip will keep you entertained when the animals are taking a break during the day!

Serengeti Shall Not Die by Bernhard Grzimek and Michael Grzimek

Born Free by Joy Adamson

I Married Adventure by Osa Johnson

The Shadow of Kilimanjaro : On Foot across East Africa by Rick Ridgeway

Out of Africa by Karen Blixen

I Dreamed of Africa by (author) Kuki Gallmann

African Safari Field Guide by Mark W. Nolting

The Birds of East Africa: Kenya, by Terry Stevenson and, John Fanshawe

Wildlife of East Africa by Martin B. Withers and, David Hosking

DOCUMENTS

- Passport: valid a minimum of 6 months prior to entry.
- Yellow fever health card: they can ask for it upon arrival at the airport.
- Visa: you can buy it upon arrival at the airport in Tanzania for USD 50.
- Credit card
- Cash dollars: note that in Tanzania only US bills newer than 2006 are accepted.
- Your COVID19 vaccination certificate if you are vaccinated
- 72 hours valid COVID PCR test certificate