



AFRICAN SAFARI

LUGGAGE & PACKING GUIDELINES



What you wear and what you pack can make or break your safari experience. The right clothing keeps you comfortable through crisp dawn game drives and warm afternoon bush walks, while the wrong luggage choice could ground you before your adventure even begins. Curated from over four decades of bespoke African safari expertise, this guide ensures that every item earns its place, so you can focus entirely on the magic of Africa unfolding around you.

TIPS FROM OUR SAFARI GUIDES

DRESS FOR THE BUSH NOT THE BALL

Wear The Right Gear

- Layering is your greatest ally; one or more warm layers are essential for early morning game drives and cool evening sundowners.
- Long-sleeved shirts with roll-up tabs and zip-off trousers are ideal for adapting effortlessly as the African day unfolds and temperatures shift.
- We recommend breathable, vented fabrics such as Tactel, which move with the rhythm of the bush, keeping you comfortable from dawn through to dusk.
- Appropriate footwear is non-negotiable on safari. Closed-toe shoes are a must; be sure to wear them in well before your departure to avoid blisters and discomfort along the way. And don't overlook a comfortable pair of sandals for relaxed moments back at camp.
- Most properties featured across our African Signature Journeys itineraries offer a daily laundry service, meaning you can pack light and travel with ease.
- Above all, dress for comfort; your safari is an experience to be fully immersed in, not hampered by.



SAFARI COLOUR GUIDE

When it comes to colour, the bush has its own dress code, and blending in is part of the experience. We recommend leaving black, blue, and any bright or flashy colours at home, as these can disturb wildlife and detract from the natural environment.

Instead, embrace the tones of the African landscape, think khaki, tan, sand, and warm, earthy browns. It is also worth noting that camouflage-patterned clothing is best avoided, as it can cause unease or offence in certain local communities across the regions we travel through.



AFRICAN WEATHER

WHAT TO EXPECT

Southern Africa



The climate across Southern Africa is, for the most part, wonderfully inviting year-round, except for warm to hot days and cool to mild evenings. The summer months, running from September through April, bring greater heat and humidity. Our winter season, however, spanning May to August, can deliver surprisingly cold nights and crisp early mornings, a contrast that is particularly pronounced when out in the bush on safari. We encourage our guests to pack with this in mind, ensuring comfort from the first morning game drive to the last evening around the fire.

Central & East Africa



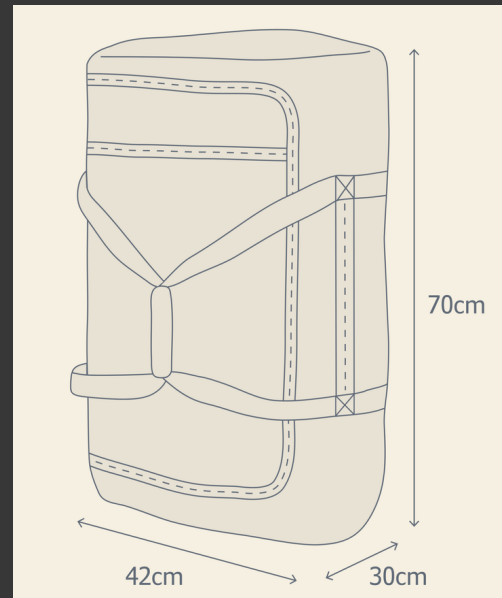
Across Central and East Africa, the shift between seasons is generally more subtle, temperatures tend to remain relatively consistent throughout the year, with summer months bringing warmth and, in certain regions, higher humidity. Winters here are notably milder than their Southern African counterparts, rarely dipping to the same cool extremes. Rwanda, however, carries its own unique considerations when it comes to appropriate attire, and we warmly encourage guests to connect with their dedicated African Signature Journeys Travel Designer for personalised guidance ahead of their journey.

LUGGAGE GUIDANCE

UNDERSTAND WHATS REQUIRED

African Signature Journeys operates in some of Africa's most remote and breathtaking destinations, accessible only by small charter aircraft. Luggage weight and size restrictions on these flights are a strict aviation safety requirement, with no exceptions.

Please note that all guests must adhere to a total luggage weight of 20 kg (44 lb) per person, inclusive of both check-in and carry-on luggage, with maximum bag dimensions of 70 cm x 42 cm x 30 cm. If your luggage exceeds these limits, you will not be permitted to board.



Baggage Types

Bags must be soft and squashable; hard-shell luggage is not permitted on charter flights. A durable, water-resistant fabric bag is ideal.

If you are travelling with additional luggage, secure storage is available at designated hub locations across Southern Africa; however, this must be arranged in advance with your Travel Designer at the time of booking.

Types of Luggage



These are current guidelines. Luggage requirements can vary on aircraft type. We recommend connecting with one of our African Specialists to get the best advice for your trip

CLOTHING RECOMMENDATIONS

WHAT TO EXPECT

Clothing

- Long-sleeved cotton or performance-fabric shirts are a safari staple for sun protection and all-day comfort
- Long, breathable safari or travel trousers for time in the bush
- Shorts and skirts for warmer parts of the day, bear in mind that short skirts are not well suited to climbing in and out of game drive vehicles
- Golf shirts and t-shirts — sleeved styles are your best defence against the African sun
- A light rain jacket to keep you covered during the summer months
- A lightweight sweater or fleece for cool summer evenings around the fire
- Winter travellers should pack a warm sweater or insulated fleece alongside a windbreaker or parka
- A scarf, gloves, and a beanie or woollen hat are non-negotiable for winter mornings in the bush
- A tracksuit for relaxed evenings or early starts at camp
- Swimsuit
- Pyjamas — go lightweight for summer and thermal for winter
- Underwear — game drive tracks can be rough and uneven, and we recommend ladies pack appropriate support attire for a comfortable ride



Hats

- A beanie or warm hat, an absolute must for winter game drives and chilly bush mornings
- A headscarf, bandana, or buff, invaluable in dry, dusty landscapes and on open game drive vehicles
- A sun hat, bush hat, or peak cap to keep the African sun at bay

Footwear

- Sandals, flat or low-heeled styles are ideal for relaxed moments in and around camp
- Sturdy closed-toe walking shoes are essential, well-fitted running or tennis shoes work perfectly well
- Socks, wool varieties are highly recommended for keeping feet warm through the cooler winter months

You may require more formal attire for a stay at prestigious city hotels or on one of the luxury trains.

CAMERA EQUIPMENT & GEAR

DETAILED CHECKLIST

Bags & Essentials

- A lightweight daypack or backpack is essential for carrying personal essentials on walking safaris
- A moonbag or crossbody bag is ideal for keeping valuables secure and within easy reach on game drives — the bush terrain can be bumpy and uneven, and having essentials safely secured prevents loss or damage
- A tote bag is perfect for managing layers — guests can easily stow or retrieve clothing without having to hold items throughout the drive

Documents & Finance

- All travel documentation — visas, tickets, passports, insurance details, and any relevant booking confirmations
- Credit, debit cards, and sufficient cash. South African Rand is required in South Africa, while US Dollars are widely accepted across most other African destinations we travel through
- Cash for guide and staff gratuities — tipping is a meaningful gesture and an important part of safari culture

Photography & Optics

- Camera equipment, including spare batteries, chargers, memory cards, and flash cards
- Binoculars — an absolute safari essential
- A waterproof and dustproof bag or protective cover for camera and binocular equipment

Sun & Eye Care

- Good quality sunglasses — UV-protected and polarised lenses are strongly recommended
- Guests who wear contact lenses are advised to pack a spare pair of spectacles, as dust in the bush can cause significant irritation
- Moisturising cream and sunscreen of SPF 30 or higher
- Lip balm

Health & Wellbeing

- Personal toiletries
- Insect repellent for body application
- We recommend consulting with your travel clinic prior to departure regarding appropriate medications for your basic safari kit — including aspirin, plasters, antiseptic cream, antihistamine, and any destination-specific prophylactics

Tech & Connectivity

- Universal adapters and all necessary charging cables



AFRICAN SAFARI

SUGGESTED PACKING LIST

Should you have any questions or require further guidance on preparing for your African journey, our specialists are just a conversation away.

www.africansignature.com