

The Ultimate African Safari Packing Guide

What to Pack for Luxury or Overlanding Safaris



ONE NINER EXPEDITIONS



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One of the most common questions we get asked is:

“What should I actually pack?”

The reality is what you bring can completely shape your safari experience. The difference between feeling comfortable and prepared or missing key moments, often comes down to packing.

This guide simplifies everything, so you arrive ready to fully enjoy every part of your safari. Whether you're on a luxury safari or overlanding adventure.



The Golden Rules of Safari Packing

- Stick to neutral colors (khaki, olive, beige)
- Dress in layers for changing temperatures
- Soft bags are essential
- Pack light: laundry is often available
- Prioritize comfort over fashion

Clothing Essentials (For Any Safari)

- Lightweight long-sleeve shirts
- T-shirts / breathable tops
- Lightweight trousers
- Shorts
- Fleece or warm jacket
- Light rain jacket

Think breathable, versatile, and easy to layer.

Sidenote:

A torch is surprisingly useful even in luxury lodges.

We always recommend packing based on your specific itinerary and season.

Essential Safari Gear

- Binoculars
- Camera (optional)
- Power bank
- Universal adapter
- Headlamp or torch
- Reusable water bottle
- Small daypack

Footwear

- Comfortable walking shoes
- Sandals or slip-ons
- Optional: hiking boots



Luxury Safari

- Linen shirts or elevated basics
- Smart-casual dinner outfit
- Swimsuit
- Sandals or loafers

Relaxed, polished, & effortless.



Overlanding / Camping Safari

- Durable trousers
- Extra socks
- Closed shoes or boots
- Beanie (cold mornings)
- Buff or scarf (for dust)
- Multi-tool (always useful)

Practical, durable, and adaptable.



The right packing approach depends entirely on how your safari is designed.



SAFARI PACKING CHECKLIST

Clothing/Gear

- Lightweight shirts (long sleeve)
- T-shirts / tops
- Lightweight trousers
- Shorts
- Warm layer (jacket/fleece)
- Light rain jacket/poncho
- Casual evening wear
- Swimsuit
- Sleepwear
- Undergarments & socks
- Wide-brim hat or cap
- Daypack or small backpack
- Binoculars
- Camera (optional)
- Travel adapter
- Power bank
- Torch / headlamp
- Reusable water bottle
- Lightweight dry bag
- Notebook or journal (optional)
- Sunglasses

Footwear

- Comfortable closed-toe shoes
- Sandals or flip-flops
- Optional: hiking boots water-resistant shoes for wet conditions

What NOT to Pack

- Bright-colored clothing
- Camouflage (restricted in some countries)
- Drones (restricted in most parks)

Luxury Add-Ons

- Smart-casual outfit
- Extra scarf or lightweight shawl for style & sun protection

Overlanding Add-Ons

- Durable trousers
- Extra socks
- Beanie (cold mornings)
- Buff or scarf (dust, sun, mist)
- Multi-tool (always useful)

Health & Essentials

- Sunscreen (high SPF)
- Lip balm with SPF
- Insect repellent
- Personal hygiene kit
- Medications (bring extra for buffer)
- Hand sanitizer / wet wipes
- Basic first aid
- Optional: anti-diarrheal tablets, rehydration salts

Documents & Money

- Passport (+6 months valid)
- Travel insurance details
- Credit/Debit Cards
- USD cash (\$10-\$20 bills)