



WILDERNESS

Discover Earth's Ultimate,
Untamed Places

SUGGESTED PACKING LIST

Please find herewith a list of items which should be used as a guideline whilst planning a safari.

Clothing

The weather in Southern Africa is generally pleasant throughout the year – warm to hot days, and cool to warm nights – with the summer months (September to April) being hotter. During our winter months, however (May to August), it can become really cold at night and in the early morning, particularly when on safari, so we would like to suggest that you pack accordingly.

Dress in layers for all activities, with a warm layer/s being essential in the early mornings and evenings.

Long-sleeved shirts with roll-up tabs and zip-off trousers allow one to adapt to local weather conditions as temperatures rise (breathable items of clothing are recommended as these can adapt to changing temperatures throughout the day/night). Dressing for ease and comfort is key.

In central and east Africa, the temperature variation is generally less in the summer months it can be quite hot and/or humid and the winters usually do not become as cold. Requirements for a visit to Rwanda are quite specific – please contact your Travel Designer for further details.

Namibia,
Kenya and
Rwanda are
polythene-
free countries

Essentials to Pack



SAFARI
SUN HAT



BINOCULARS



GOOD
CLOSED SHOES



SAFARI
DUFFLE BAG



CAMERA



JACKET

- Sun hat/bush hat.
- Headscarf/bandana – particularly for dusty dry regions.
- Golf-shirts and/or T-shirts – preferably with sleeves to protect your shoulders from the sun.
- Long-sleeved cotton shirts.
- Shorts and/or skirts – really short skirts are not practical for getting in and out of game drive vehicles.
- Long trousers/slacks.
- Track suit.
- Pyjamas – lightweight for summer and warm/thermal for winter.
- Underwear – on game drives the roads can be bumpy and uneven so a suitable women's attire may be required.
- Socks – thermal options are recommended for the winter months.
- Good closed walking shoes (running/tennis shoes are fine).
- Sandals – preferably low heeled or flat if you are going on safari.
- Swimming costume.
- Lightweight jersey or fleece in summer.
- Light rain gear or jacket for summer months.
- Warm jersey or fleece plus anorak or parka in winter.
- Additionally, a scarf, gloves and beanies/woollen hats for the cold winter months.
- More formal attire for your stay at prestigious city hotels or on one of the luxury trains.
- Torch or a head lamp.
- Southern African bird guide if you are a keen birder, e.g. Newman's or Sasol.
- Personal toiletries (basic amenities are supplied by most establishments Wilderness endeavors to provide environmentally sound products that will protect the environments in which we operate, as well as the fragile septic systems we have in the camps/lodges. For this reason, we request that guests refrain from using their own products and utilise the amenities we have on offer. Palm oil or its derivatives are almost always to be found in bars of soap. Given the damage to forests through palm oil production, we have decided to provide liquid soap – a far more eco-friendly option in our camps/lodges. Should you prefer to use a bar of soap, requests may be made to management, as we do keep a supply for those who wish to do so.)
- Moisturising cream and suntan lotion SPF 30 or higher recommended.
- Lip balm.
- Hand sanitiser.
- Insect repellent for body application, e.g. Tabard, Rid, Jungle Juice, etc.
- Please consult with your travel clinic with regards to appropriate medication to include in your basic medical kit (aspirins, plasters, antiseptic cream and antihistamine cream, etc.)
- Tissues.
- Lightweight backpack to carry essentials on walking safaris.
- Visas, tickets, passports, money, credit cards,
- insurance details, etc.

Equipment & Other

- Good quality sunglasses, UV protected, preferably polarised. Tinted fashion glasses are not good in strong light.
- If you wear contact lenses, we recommend that you bring along a pair of glasses in case you get irritation from the dust.
- Camera equipment including spare batteries, chargers, film, flash cards, memory sticks, etc.
- Waterproof/dustproof bag or cover for your camera.
- We highly recommend that you bring your own pair of binoculars for viewing both wildlife and birds. The recommended general purpose binocular specifications are 08x40 or 10x42.

Please note that Kenya, Namibia and Rwanda are polythene-free countries. For environmental reasons, plastic bags are illegal and have been banned, the customary plastic duty-free bags included. Arriving visitors are requested to avoid bringing plastic bags into the countries and, in fact, being in possession of a plastic bag/s will be an offence as it will now be against the law and violators could be penalized.

For liquids in hand luggage, it is recommended to use transparent toiletry bags. Items purchased at the airport before boarding the aircraft should be removed from said plastic bags. Travellers coming into Kenya, Namibia and Rwanda with duty-free plastic shop bags will be required to leave these at the airport under the new regulations.

Note 1

Bright colours and white are **not** advised whilst on safari, e.g. please note that for the guided rhino tracking at Wilderness Desert Rhino Camp, strictly no bright clothing to be worn during this activity, with comfortable walking shoes/hiking boots advised. In addition, camouflage clothing is not recommended for travel in African countries, e.g. camouflage or military-inspired clothing is prohibited when travelling in Zimbabwe.

Note 2

There may be a restriction on luggage limits on your safari so please ensure that you have the details from your agent according to your itinerary and ask your agent ahead of time if you would like details on the feasibility and costs of taking excess luggage with you on any of these restricted luggage safaris.

A limited laundry service is provided on a daily basis at most Wilderness properties and, weather permitting, will be returned on the same day. Please bear in mind that location and access to a plentiful water supply may on occasion restrict this offering. As this is not a specialised facility, any delicate items or those that require particular care should be noted on the laundry care slips/laundry lists, or if preferred not included and personally attended to. Note that the camps/lodges cannot be held responsible for any damage or loss to these articles.

At certain camps/lodges (excludes Wilderness Magashi and Wilderness Bisate), the staff will not wash underwear, due to prevailing local cultural traditions in the country. In these instances, environmentally friendly washing detergent can be supplied for guests to wash their own items. At some camps/lodges a mesh laundry bag is supplied so that guests may place their underwear into this bag which will then be machine washed with other laundry and returned in the same mesh laundry bag.

Laundry is dried by the sun and on most days, laundry services requested in the morning will be returned by the evening (washed, dried and ironed). Laundry is complimentary at Wilderness properties if booked on an FI rate basis. This service is available at an additional cost if travelling on a DB1 rate basis to our camps/lodges.

As an environmentally-aware company, we strive to reduce our water usage where we can. Since towel washing consumes an enormous amount of water, our towel policy is in line with most eco-friendly establishments around the world. Should towels be washed, these are to be placed in the laundry basket/laundry bag supplied. Towels not in the laundry basket will be hung up and air dried for reuse. Laundry facilities are available at most non-Wilderness camps/lodges and hotels in Africa and, where applicable, laundry is charged for accordingly.

Note 3

We carry reference materials in our camps/lodges and vehicles, so it is not necessary to bring these with you.

Note 4

Where applicable, a printed copy of your travel insurance that includes the policy reference number, name of insurer, name/s of person/s covered and the contact telephone number/s in the advent of a medical emergency.

Suggested Packing List For Children

Children are wild creatures at heart who bloom on a safari adventure. Working with all that Wilderness has to offer, our immersive experiences in Botswana, Namibia, Zambia, and Zimbabwe centre around adventure, suspense, learning, and wonder. When on safari with children, it helps to pack right with purpose. Nature (aided by our guides) will do the rest. For further details, please consult with your Travel Designer.

Whether catch and release fishing Africa's most prized game fish in the Okavango Delta, star gazing in Sossusvlei, or drumming with an African maestro these tactile interactions with raw nature will enrich, expand, and reward their sense of Wilderness. Their sense of self, and the all-important connection between the two.

Working with all that Wilderness has to offer, our immersive experiences for children aged 06 to 12 years in Botswana, Namibia, Zambia, and Zimbabwe centre around adventure, suspense, learning, and wonder.

When on safari with children, it helps to pack right with purpose. Nature (aided by our guides) will do the rest. While items such as tissues, insect repellent, body wash, shampoo and conditioner, body lotion, etc. are provided in the camps/lodges - here are a few other ideas that have worked for our own children on safari which may be of help.

Enable Their Curiosity

Camera: A simple, child-friendly camera helps children collect memories. Looking through a lens is a natural way to focus a child's attention, and engage their senses. Even if they are not usually into photography at home, on safari, they may be.

Binoculars: These magnify their experience of the landscape and its wildlife. A distant blob on the horizon can signal the start of an elephant parade, a blur under a bush can soon catalyse into a thrilling hunt.

Torches: While torches are provided in the tents or main areas, it is fun for children to have their own to take along throughout their journey. Night time may seem less frightening for those who might be afraid, and can be used to spy out bush babies, owls, or frogs around the camp in the evenings.

Books On Animals: Seeing the animals, birds, or reptiles in a book and searching for these creates excitement and anticipation. Some children may not nap so reading up and keeping entertained during downtime in the camp/at the lodge keeps the excitement for the next adventure.

Dress For Comfort

Zip-off Trousers: Early morning and evening game drives can be chilly. Zip-off pants help children easily transition between cooler and hotter periods throughout the day.

Cap: Hats tend to blow off on game drives/nature drives, and boats, while caps stay put!

Flip Flops: These helps keep feet cool around camp/lodge, and when walking to the pool protect feet from thorns or stings.

Swim Gear: Goggles and at least two swimming costumes are good for safaris in the warmer months when children want to spend lots of time in the pool.

Warm & Cool Clothes: Make sure there is always a jersey available as the weather can change, even in summer. Avoid bright colours, and white clothing while on safari. A limited laundry service is provided daily at most Wilderness properties. Still, the location and access to a plentiful water supply may restrict this offering, so pack sufficiently for active children, although not too much.

Medication For Children: A chewable probiotic is a good idea too.

Keep Children Independent

Small Backpack/Bag: For holding their own belongings, and being able to take these with them on activity. While a Kids Bag from Wilderness is in most of our camps/lodges, they may prefer their own familiarity from home.

Snacks: Long-lasting snacks are important. While camps/lodges offer and create snacks, many younger kids have their favourite nibbles. Some might not be accessible in the places being travelled to.

Themed Toys: A themed toy like an elephant, lion or zebra figure means children can keep the adventure going on their own when there are lulls in excitement.

Favourite Soft Toy: As parents may find it thrilling showing wildlife to their children, children may experience similar delight showing their 'best friend' all the animals. It can sometimes raise their level of patience or excitement.

Diary Or Notebook: Children are able to keep lists, note questions, draw scenes, or collect treasures. A notebook becomes a keepsake, a confidant, and a creative outlet.

Electronic Devices: We do not recommend using these on safari, which is a time to disconnect. However, if choosing to bring a tablet with, earphones are a good idea so as not to disturb others in shared spaces.

Other Useful Items To Bring

- Wet Wipes (for sticky fingers, etc. on activity).
- Suntan lotion SPF 30 or higher recommended.
- Lip balm.

Whatever may be packed, remember that children are resilient, curious, enthusiastic, and easy to please for the most part. As far as travelling companions go, these are pretty good qualities.

Having children is not a reason to postpone a safari. In fact, it is just another reason to book one. And at the end of a trip, you may be surprised at how children have grown in safari learnings.

As parents and travellers, you will grow too as you experience nature through their eyes. And it won't just be the lions, elephants, and big game children may recall. It will be the smoky sweet taste of marshmallows roasted around the campfire. Or the noisy babble of nests full of sociable weavers. Or the smile of a Himba child they played with in the Namib. Or the soft, firm feel of their hand in yours as you head back, and stop to take in the colours of a sunset.

Connected, wild, and free.

