Printable Safari Packing Checklist

For every safari, vehicle only and fly in safaris

Documents and money
- [ ] Passport
- [ ] Visa documents if required
- [ ] Travel insurance details
- [ ] Printed and digital copies of important documents
- [ ] Credit card and some cash in small notes

Health and personal care
- [ ] Prescription medication
- [ ] Basic first aid kit
- [ ] Malaria medication if prescribed
- [ ] Pain relief tablets
- [ ] Insect repellent
- [ ] Sunscreen
- [ ] Lip balm with SPF
- [ ] Hand sanitizer
- [ ] Wet wipes
- [ ] Personal toiletries
- [ ] Reusable water bottle

Clothing
Neutral colors and lightweight layers are commonly recommended for safari conditions, especially because mornings can be cold and midday can be hot.

- [ ] 3–5 lightweight shirts or tops
- [ ] 2–3 pairs of safari trousers or leggings
- [ ] 1–2 pairs of shorts
- [ ] Fleece, sweater, or light insulated jacket
- [ ] Lightweight rain jacket or windbreaker
- [ ] Underwear and socks
- [ ] Sleepwear
- [ ] Swimsuit
- [ ] Hat with brim
- [ ] Sunglasses
- [ ] Scarf or buff for dust

Footwear
- [ ] Comfortable closed-toe shoes
- [ ] Sandals or flip-flops for camp

Tech and safari gear
- [ ] Binoculars
- [ ] Phone and charger
- [ ] Power bank
- [ ] Plug adapter
- [ ] Headlamp or flashlight
- [ ] Small daypack

Camera gear
For photography-focused safaris, spare batteries, memory cards, dust protection, and a compact but well-planned camera kit are among the most consistently recommended essentials.

Core kit
- [ ] Main camera body

- [ ] Backup camera body if available
- [ ] Main safari lens
- [ ] Wider lens for landscapes or camp scenes

Power and storage
- [ ] Extra camera batteries
- [ ] Battery charger
- [ ] Charging cables
- [ ] Extra memory cards
- [ ] Card wallet or organizer
- [ ] Power bank
- [ ] Travel adapter

Cleaning and protection
- [ ] Microfiber cloth
- [ ] Lens cleaning solution or wipes
- [ ] Dry bag or protective pouch

Support and workflow
- [ ] Bean bag for vehicle photography
- [ ] Laptop or tablet if needed for backups
- [ ] External SSD or backup drive
- [ ] Card reader

Fly-in with small bush planes
Fly-in safaris require the lightest packing style because many operators ask for soft-sided bags and enforce strict baggage limits.

Bag choice
- [ ] Soft-sided duffel only
- [ ] Compact daypack
- [ ] Lightweight packing cubes

Priority items
- [ ] Minimal clothing that mixes and matches
- [ ] Travel-size toiletries only
- [ ] Essential medication in carry-on
- [ ] Motion-sickness tablets if needed

Camera gear for fly-in bush planes

- [ ] Choose only your most useful lenses
- [ ] Pack the lightest bag possible
- [ ] Reduce chargers and cables to essentials
- [ ] Limit nonessential accessories
- [ ] Keep batteries, cards, and camera body easy to access in hand luggage if

Leave out for fly-in safaris
- [ ] Hard-shell suitcase
- [ ] Heavy extra shoes
- [ ] Bulky jackets unless seasonally necessary
- [ ] Full-size toiletries
- [ ] Too many books or nonessential electronics

Avoid packing
Bright clothing is often discouraged, and some destinations restrict plastic bags, so checking country-specific rules before departure is useful.

Don’t bring any dinner clothes! Safari travel requires casual clothing and it’s completely normal to go for dinner in your game drive clothes right after returning to the camp. Time for showering and freshen up usually is between the morning and afternoon game drives, except when traveling to the next location.

Over all, keep it simple! Most camps and lodges offer free laundry service (excluding underwear and socks) so usually 2-3 outfits are perfectly fine.

Even though soft duffels are only required on small bush planes, I recommend to also use them for vehicle driving safaris. They are easier to stow and one tends to pack less because the space is limited.

So far I always managed to not wear at least 3 items I packed even when I was only able to bring 8kg , because my camera gear already weighs 12kg…don’t worry, you’ll probably pack more than you need.