

Kenya Safari

What to Bring

<http://believesafari.com/experience/>



Here are some guidelines to what to expect so you can make packing decisions:

Airplane: I wear my runners and long sleeve zippered jacket or fleece and a pair of long pants. The runners will be your shoe gear for the rest of the trip and the long sleeve fleece jacket will be your jacket for the rest of the trip.

Drives to our destinations: vehicles do not have A/C (but the windows work just fine). Expect long, dusty drives. Be prepared if you suffer from motion sickness. Flip flops or runners are fine on long car rides.

Game Drives: always wear your runners and socks. Dress in layers. Zip off pants are awesome. A T shirt, a long sleeve shirt and a hat are essential on the early am and late pm game drives. Early am and late pm it gets to 10-15degreesC

Around the camps: shorts, t shirt/tank top, flip flops are fine for the afternoons. It gets to high 20's in the afternoon.

Dinner: Casual. Wear pants, socks and shoes. It gets cooler in the evenings. (10-15degrees). You don't need any dress up clothes.

Mombasa and Wema Centre: Day visit - It will be hot so shorts and t shirt or tank top, flip flops are fine. Wear a hat please as you walk around the centre it is all open air. (30 - 35 degrees)

Golfing: Regular golf attire like you would at a country club here. Remember, Kenya is old british colonial so they stick to dress code! You only need 3 golf outfits- there is laundry in Mara

Luggage:

Bring 1 suitcase, max 20 kg. The size above carry on is best. I recommend packing a small duffel bag into your luggage so that you have an extra bag coming home for any souvenirs you may acquire. Please make sure that this bag locks and that you have a tsa lock with a code on it.

- Camera (batteries, memory cards)

1 day pack/ backpack that will carry your daily essentials:

- Binoculars
- Chargers
- Snacks (always have something with you)
- Lip balm
- Sunscreen
- Hand sanitizer
- Journal and Pen
- Reading material
- Medicine
- 2 ziploc bags
- Passport and money (if not locked in the safe in the room)
- Sunglasses and prescription readers

Clothes: For safari you will need:

- 4 light weight short sleeve tees or tanks
- 2 lightweight pants/capris (zip offs are great - light colours)
- 2 shorts or capris
- 2 light weight long sleeve tops

- 1 pair of pants/jeans/skirt for dinner
- 4 tops for dinner that you can wear with your pants/jeans/skirt for dinner (it will be cool in the pm)
- Hat

On safari I wear usually – capris or zip offs, a light t shirt, a long sleeve shirt or light jacket, socks, shoes, bandana/hat. By midmorning I turn the pants into shorts, and remove the outer long sleeve layer and am very comfortable in shorts and a t shirt. Dinners I wear pants/jeans, socks and shoes if it cold, flip flops if it isn't and a layer on top. I may use my fleece jacket or a scarf at dinner as the temp drops. I usually will wear the same pair of jeans or long pants for dinner every night with a different top.

You will need swim wear for Mombasa and some casual outfits for dinners. Remember less is better. You can hand wash in your tents and there is laundry available in Mara.

Shoes:

- Flip flops for the camp (ALWAYS wear them inside your tents)
- Runners for game drives and travel - wear these on the plane to make room in your luggage
- Casual shoes for dinner

Electronics:

- There is lots of cell coverage and if you have an unlocked phone you can purchase a sim card and airtime easily (\$20)
- Chargers and batteries
- Electrical Adapter - Sockets are 240V. and plugs are 3 pin square
- Camera and memory cards
- Binoculars
- Headphones

Note: most of the camps run on generator power that shuts off at midnight so don't bank on being able to charge your devices overnight all the time. USB Power packs are a great thing to have as well.

Other Stuff:

- Bandana (good for all kinds of things: sun protection, napkin, lens cleaner, kleenex, napkin, etc.)
- Mosquito repellent
- Small flashlight
- Swimsuit/coverup
- Travel mug for coffee/ tea & refillable water bottle
- Non scented creams (mosquitoes like scent)

Cash: Most places prefer credit cards as opposed to cash. ATM machines are hard to find.

Bring USD bills that are new in date- old ones are not accepted due to fraud issues- bring some some \$1's for tips. Always have a little cash on you at all times. You can charge for your drinks to your room and pay via cash on checkout. All of your major tips to the guides, and camp staff will total \$250USd pp - if . You will need a few USD \$1's for the porters that carry your luggage to your rooms, waiters etc. An Additional \$500 USD cash should be plenty. Order Kenya Shillings equivalent of \$300 USD before you leave to have on hand. Caddies must be paid in shillings (3000ksh) per round = \$20 usd per round

Food: Safaris cater to an international clientele so the food is standard North American/European fare, though you usually will have some local foods to try as well. You can order drinks at meals and pay as you go or when you check out. Carry snacks with you always. Safari drives will usually include a boxed breakfast to eat while out, lunch and dinner are at the camp. Water is always available in the vehicles.

Medicine: Use your own discretion. I recommend a course of Cipro(antibiotics), Tums, Imodium, Gravol, Advil and Benadryl. Be prepared if you suffer from motion sickness. Some of the drives are bumpy for several hours.

Toilets: On safari there may be some western style toilets on our drives, but mostly it will be pits or out in the savannah. Firm up your squatting muscles and drip dry is the most environmentally friendly. Cars will have paper in them and if you must use paper on the savannah, please put them in ziplocs and carry them with you to the next garbage disposal site. Your day pack should always have ziplocs and hand sanitizer.

A typical day on safari begins with a wake up Jambo call at 5: 30am. By 6 am the camps have warm drinks ready for us. We may depart at 6:20 am every morning for our first game drive. It will be cool out and the air will be so fresh it will make your nerve endings tingle. We will roam around freely looking for whatever wants to be seen and take our time wandering and experiencing the terrain. Around 8:30 am or so we will stop for a

break and food - (depending on what we encounter along the way, it may be later, so always have some snacks with you). We will then continue on our game drive till about 1130 am and then head back to camp. Lunch is around 130pm or so and then the afternoon at leisure. Some camps have pools and massages can be booked. Ever had a massage while listening to buffalo bellowing away? 4pm we will grab a tea or coffee and then head out for the evening game drive. The temperature will drop pretty quickly out there so be prepared with your layers. We will return by 7 pm, take a quick shower and change to be ready for pre-dinner drinks at 7:30 - 7:45 and dinner at 8:00pm. You will be ready for sleep by 9:30pm!

This is what I bring- it usually fits in a carry on and I don't check any luggage, but I am well prepared! Plane - runners, long pants (lulu lemon studio pant with elastic waist), t-shirt, long sleeve

light jacket.

- 3 capris or shorts (these will come in handy in Mombasa as well)
- 1 long pant (+1 that I wore on the plane)
- 1 jeans - I wear these at dinner every night)
- 4 dinner tops (not super dressy at all)
- 4 short sleeve t shirts or shirts to wear under my fleece on safari in the morning and evening. Then I remove my fleece midday so I'm just in short sleeves.
- Hat - you will not need a blowdryer, or flat iron- it is fruitless, tie it up, and let it be!
- Socks- 4 pairs
- Underwear - 4 pairs (I handwash every night in the sink)
- Runners in the car, flip flops in the tent and around camp, loafers for dinner
- 2 Bathing suits & 2 light sundresses for Mombasa
- Toiletries

GOLF Clothes: 5 rounds:

- 3 pair of bottoms- it won't be that cold (laundry available before round 4 & 5)
- 3 golf shirts with collar (laundry available before round 4 & 5)
- 1 long sleeve layer in case it is cool
- 1 pair of golf shoes & Pencil to mark your scorecard- pencils are a commodity!
- 5 things to donate to your caddy- golf shirts- medium size mens work the best - any brand. Golf hats. Also they can use tees and pencils and ball markers. If you are a clublink member, grab 5 handfuls !

You can usually just dust off your clothes each night and hang them up to air freshen. Once you get to Mara you can do laundry.

Avoid wearing white on safari, it will get dusty really fast!

1 checked piece please - 23kg max plus your golf bag. Plus you will have your day bag as well. You will have to pay \$25 for the golf bag on one flight.

Please make sure your name is clearly marked on all your luggage and travel case - ALL pieces.

If you have a few extra clubs you are not using, please bring some to donate- they will have a good home in Kenya!