

AFRICAN SAFARI PACKING LIST

LUGGAGE:

1. Hard gun case that locks securely.
2. “Squashable” duffel bag (that can be crammed into vehicles and small airplanes).
3. Carry-on bag. A medium-sized daypack makes a great carry-on, and will be useful on safari.

GUN-RELATED:

1. Maximum of two rifles.
2. U.S. Customs Form 4457 for each firearm.
3. Copy of gun permit or airline clearance form, if applicable.
4. Secure locks for gun case; enough locks to fill all “lock fixtures” on your gun case.
5. Small cleaning kit.
6. Scope cover.
7. Soft gun case for use on vehicles.
8. Any Allen wrenches or screwdrivers needed for disassembly or scope adjustment.
9. Sling.
10. If bringing just one rifle, consider an additional scope set in rings (in case something goes wrong).
11. Hard ammunition case that locks, with a lock. Ammunition can be placed in your duffel in the United States—don’t lock it! In South Africa you may be required to check your ammo separately in a hard, locked case. Tackle box or military ammunition boxes work, and can be plastic, wood, or metal, but must have a hasp that allows secure locking.
12. Ammunition. Airline rules mandate a maximum of 5 kilograms/11 pounds, **packed in original factory containers**. If bringing one rifle, bring 60 rounds; if two rifles, 40 each for general bag hunting. If one rifle is for dangerous game and the second is for everything else, recommend 30 for the dangerous game rifle and 60 for the general-purpose rifle.
13. Targets for sighting in. Can be placed under the foam in your gun case.

CARRY-ON: Although bags going astray is fairly uncommon—no worse in Africa than in the U.S.—it can happen. Pack your carry-on as if it is the only bag you will receive. Rifles can be borrowed; likewise, clothing and toiletries can be easily purchased or borrowed. Pack the carry-on with items you simply cannot do without!

1. Passport.
2. Copy of itinerary, hunt contract, gun permit, or airline clearance form, if applicable.
3. Camera.
4. Batteries.
5. Binoculars.

6. Light jacket.
7. Minimal toiletries (be aware of TSA restrictions on liquids).
8. Sunglasses.
9. Extra prescription glasses.
10. Prescription medications for the full duration of the safari.
11. Book(s), Kindle, i-Pad, etc.
12. Appropriate electricity converter plugs for country(ies) to be visited. (Google "Electric plugs for _____.")
13. Wear comfortable shoes or light hiking boots that you can hunt in if necessary.
14. Wear and pack comfortable clothing that you can hunt in if necessary.
15. Cap or hat.

DUFFEL BAG: Do not pack anything valuable in checked baggage.

1. Three changes of hunting clothing (two to rotate and an extra in case of a camp change and no laundry. Green or camouflage is recommended).
2. One extra change of travel clothing (two max; this may be in your carry-on).
3. Three changes of underwear (in addition to in the carry-on).
4. Three changes of light wool socks.
5. Warm jacket with a hood. Never underestimate how cold African winters (June–August) can be, especially when traveling in open vehicles during mornings and evenings. Plan for a layered approach since middays are usually warm and sunny.
6. Gloves (for warmth in mornings and evenings, and for hand protection when crawling or stalking). Leather gloves are recommended.
7. Watch cap or balaclava for mornings and evenings when traveling in open vehicles.
8. Light sweater or pullover.
9. Casual wear for evenings in camp (sweat suits, etc.).
10. Broken-in boots for hiking...soft, quiet soles essential. (These may be worn on the plane. If not, ensure you bring *two* pairs of hunting boots/shoes.)
11. Light camp shoes.
12. Light rain suit. (Depends on area and season. In most areas during peak season rain is highly unlikely—but can happen. Either way, light rain gear makes an excellent windproof extra layer.)
13. Sunblock.
14. Towel.
15. Toiletries for full duration of the safari.
16. Extra cap.

*As a contribution to conservation, look through your hunting gear for duplicates. Make a list and send it to your outfitter. Ask him or her if any of these items would be useful for his or her anti-poaching unit. If so, pack those and distribute them while you're in camp. From batteries to binoculars, your extra gear can contribute to poaching prevention efforts.