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## Expeditions and Safaris

### Packing suggestions and additional travel tips for Bush Whisper Safari's

Assuming that you intend on traveling on safari during your stay in Africa, you should make every effort to pack your belongings into one large waterproof duffel bag or backpack and one 'carry on' style bag for cameras, valuables and day trips. Chances are you will have limitations in your safari vehicle and, in some cases; travel on small aircraft (if part of your itinerary) limits you to 15 kg / 33 pounds. If you plan on doing a lot of souvenir shopping, you might consider carrying another bag tucked in your suitcase to help judge your limits. Important - For persons crossing the Atlantic Ocean from North America and connecting in Europe to Africa, International air carriers limit carryon bags to one and checked bags to two per passenger. Persons departing from Europe have weight restrictions on bags as well, varying with the carrier.

If you are doing a lot of traveling and need to carry more than the suggested items, keep in mind that you may be required to leave them at the town hotel.

Laundry service in Africa is often a bargain. Camping safaris generally include laundry service free of charge.

Advice - The customs and culture of East Africa, especially in coastal areas and Zanzibar are conservative. Revealing or very tight clothing should be avoided.

### MEN'S CLOTHING (suggestions)

- 1 pair of comfortable shoes that would be appropriate for a nice restaurant
- 1 pair of sturdy shoes or boots for hiking, preferable waterproof\*
- 1 pair of sandals to use when walking to the shower at camps, etc.
- 3-4 pair of socks
- 1 nicer long slacks for use in restaurants (please note that shorts are not appropriate in Zanzibar Town)
- 1-2 pair of long casual slacks
- 1-2 pair of shorts
- 1-2 belts
- 1-2 swimming suits
- 3-4 golf/tee shirts
- 2 long sleeve casual shirts
- 1 dress shirt (tie optional depending on if you think you might visit a top restaurant)
- 1 sweater or light jacket
- 1 rain poncho
- 1-2 hats (VERY IMPORTANT FOR SUN PROTECTION) \*
- 1 pair sunglasses\*

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Prescription glasses if used with back-up pair suggested (note: contact lenses are difficult to use on safari due to the high amount of dust.)

### WOMEN'S CLOTHING (suggestions)

- 1 pair of comfortable shoes that would be appropriate for a nice restaurant
- 1 pair of sturdy shoes or boots for hiking\*
- 1 pair of sandals to use when walking to the shower at camps, etc.
- 3-4 pair of socks
- 1-2 pair of panty hose
- 1 nicer skirt for use in restaurants (please note that shorts are not appropriate in Zanzibar Town) 1-2 pair of long casual slacks
- 1-2 pair of shorts
- 1-2 belts
- 1-2 swimming suit
- 3-4 casual short sleeve blouses
- 2 long sleeve casual blouses
- 1 sweater or light jacket
- 1 rain poncho
- 1-2 hats (VERY IMPORTANT FOR SUN PROTECTION) \*
- 1 pair sunglasses

Prescription glasses if used with back-up pair suggested (note: contact lenses are difficult to use on safari due to the high amount of dust.)

### TOILETRIES

You should bring a toothbrush, tooth paste, razor, shaving cream and other toiletries with you as those available in Africa are expensive and often not of good quality.

- Insect repellent with Deet.\*
- Sun screen with high level of protection\*
- Common drugs such as aspirin, cough drops, Pepto Bismol, etc.
- Vitamins that you might normally take
- these items are very strongly suggested.

If you suffer from motion sickness, do not forget to use your preferred medication – patch or tablets.

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### ACCESSORIES

Some other things you might consider for your trip:

- binoculars
- water bottles
- pens, paper, journal
- a good novel or two
- Zip-Lock type bags to keep the dust and moisture out of stuff and keep your wet swimsuit in
- A couple large plastic trash bags to wrap stuff in should it rain (your bags may travel on racks on top of the vehicle)
- Money belt or similar. The best is a pouch that fits in front inside your shirt or slacks.

### **Additional packing list for Camping Safaris (on the more basic trips) (Only for camping safari's)**

- two or three medium size towels
- soap (in a plastic soap dish for easy travel) & shampoo
- sleeping bag
- Tip - If you are not planning on camping often, you can usually find buyers for sleeping bags and other items if they are in good, clean condition. (Sleeping bag can be hired from Bush Whisper Expeditions)
- Warm clothing for the evenings (Ngorongoro night-time temp. often drops to about 5 C)
- (head) flash-light
- First aid kit
- Rain gear

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### IMPORTANT THINGS TO KNOW

You will need visas for some African countries. Though you can get these in Africa, your travel will go smoother if you get them in advance through the respective embassies.

Make a photocopy or list of the following items: Passports (including the page with the visa stamped in them and the pages with photos and data), plane tickets, yellow booklet showing your yellow fever vaccination, list of all medications you might require, listing of all travellers' cheque numbers, list of serial numbers for cameras, etc. Keep this list someplace apart from where you keep these other items. Keep track of your passport above all. Loss of a passport can destroy your trip and cost considerable money during the time required to replace it.

On your international flight, pack as if the airline might lose your bags. Keep things you will need right away in your carry-on. It seldom happens, and almost always the bags arrive a couple of days later, but this way, if the bags do not arrive with you, you will be able to continue on your safari while the airline finds them.

### WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU'RE BAGS GET LOST AT THE AIRPORT

We naturally hope you do not lose your bags, but it does happen. If your bags do not show up, do the following:

Report the problem to your air carrier **INSIDE THE AIRPORT** at the Baggage Claim - before passing the **CUSTOM** -and fill out the required paperwork.

Request compensation for your inconvenience (often \$50.00 for emergency purchases and a bag with simple toiletries and a tee shirt)

Ask them when they expect the bag will arrive and tell them where you will be based on your itinerary. **LEAVE THE KEYS AND/OR COMBINATIONS WITH THE AIRLINE** so they can clear the bags through customs.

Ask the airline to go with you to advise Customs Officer that bags were lost so there will be no problems further in getting your bags cleared when they arrive.

Tell your safari driver and ask his office work with the airline to get your bags to you at the earliest convenience.