



MALAIKA TRAVEL | TANZANIA SAFARI & ZANZIBAR

Tanzania Safari & Zanzibar Gear Checklist

Malaika Travel Master Expedition Packing List

IMPORTANT TRIP OVERVIEW & PACKING RULES

- **Strict Luggage Limits for Bush Flights:** Internal bush flights (e.g., Serengeti to Zanzibar via Coastal Aviation / Flightlink) strictly enforce a 15 kg (33 lbs) weight limit per passenger.
- **Soft Duffel Bags Only:** Hard-shell suitcases are not permitted on bush planes or in 4x4 safari vehicles. Use a soft-sided duffel bag without a rigid frame.
- **Single-Use Plastic Ban:** Tanzania strictly prohibits single-use plastic bags. Use fabric packing cubes or dry sacks to organize your belongings.
- **Ngorongoro Crater Cold Hazard:** The Ngorongoro Crater rim sits at ~2,200 m altitude. Early mornings and nights are cold (5°C to 10°C / 41°F to 50°F)—warm layers are mandatory.
- **Zanzibar Dress Code:** Zanzibar is predominantly Muslim. Outside resorts (in Stone Town, villages, and markets), shoulders and knees must be covered.

1. SAFARI APPAREL & DUST PROTECTION

Color Strategy: Pack neutral earth tones (khaki, beige, tan, olive). Avoid dark blue and black (attract Tsetse flies) and bright white/neon colors (scares wildlife and gets dirty fast).

- **Lightweight Long-Sleeve Safari Shirts (2–3x):** Breathable, quick-dry UV-protective shirts (protects from sun and insects).
- **Short-Sleeve T-Shirts / Polo Shirts (3–4x):** Moisture-wicking cotton or synthetic shirts in neutral colors.
- **Convertible / Lightweight Safari Trousers (2x):** Quick-dry trekking/safari pants (zip-off legs are ideal).
- **Safari Shorts (1–2x):** Comfortable shorts for hot afternoon game drives.
- **Warm Mid-Layer / Fleece Jacket (1x):** Warm fleece or grid-fleece for early morning game drives.
- **Lightweight Down / Windproof Jacket:** Essential for cold mornings on the Ngorongoro Crater rim and open-top 4x4 drives.
- **Dust Scarf / Buff / Bandana:** Essential protection against fine red dust in Serengeti and Tarangire.

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- **Wide-Brim Sun Hat / Safari Cap:** Must feature a chin strap so it doesn't blow away in open safari vehicles.
- **Evening Casual Wear (1–2x):** Clean, comfortable outfits for dinners at safari lodges and tented camps.

2. ZANZIBAR & COASTAL EXTENSION (BEACH & CULTURE)

- **Respectful Cultural Clothing (Stone Town & Village Visits):** Lightweight linen trousers, long skirts, or dresses that cover knees, plus shirts/shawls that cover shoulders.
- **Swimwear (2–3x):** Swimsuits / board shorts.
- **Lightweight Beach Cover-Ups / Sarongs:** Easy to slip on when walking from the beach to hotel dining areas.
- **Water Shoes / Reef Shoes:** Essential for sea urchins and sharp coral during low-tide ocean walks on Zanzibar beaches.
- **Flip-Flops / Sandals:** For beach resorts and hotel pool areas.

3. FOOTWEAR & CAMP COMFORT

- **Lightweight Trail Shoes / Sneakers:** Comfortable breathable walking shoes or light trail runners for game drives and walking safaris. (Heavy high-top hiking boots are not needed unless climbing Kilimanjaro/Meru).
- **Moisture-Wicking Socks (4–5 pairs):** Merino wool or synthetic socks.

4. ELECTRONICS, OPTICS & CAMERA CARE

- **Binoculars (10x42 or 8x42):** Highly recommended—1 pair per traveler for spotting distant wildlife in Serengeti/Ngorongoro.
- **Camera Gear + Telephoto Lens:** DSLR / Mirrorless camera with a 200mm–600mm telephoto lens for wildlife photography.
- **Camera Dust Protection:** Padded dry sacks or sealable protective bags to guard lenses and sensors against fine dust.
- **Power Bank (10,000mAh–20,000mAh):** Charging outlets in remote tented camps may run on solar/generators with limited operating hours.
- **Universal Travel Adapter:** UK-style Type G plugs (3 square pins) are standard in Tanzania.
- **Headlamp or Compact Torch:** Essential for walking safely around unlit tented camps and lodges at night.

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5. HYDRATION, HYGIENE & HEALTH

- **Reusable Stainless Steel / Nalgene Water Bottle (1x):** Insulated bottle to refill from 4x4 vehicle water supply (reduces plastic waste).
- **Sun Protection Kit:**
 - **Sunscreen:** SPF 50+ broad-spectrum sunscreen.
 - **Lip Care:** SPF 30+ lip balm.
 - **Sunglasses:** Polarized UV-400 sunglasses.
- **Insect Repellent (DEET / Picaridin):** High-strength repellent spray for mosquitoes and tsetse flies.
- **Personal First Aid & Medications:**
 - **Prescription:** Anti-Malaria medication (consult your travel clinic), prescription drugs.
 - **General:** Imodium, Paracetamol/Ibuprofen, Motion sickness tablets (for bumpy dirt roads), Rehydration salts (ORS), Antihistamines, Blister plasters.
- **Toiletries & Hygiene:** Biodegradable wet wipes, hand sanitizer, moisturizers, eye drops (great for dry, dusty eyes).

6. PACKING & TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

- **Soft Duffel Bag (60L–90L):** Flexible bag with no rigid frame/wheels for main luggage.
- **Daypack (20L–30L):** Carried with you in the 4x4 vehicle for camera, sunscreen, layers, and personal items.
- **Fabric Packing Cubes / Dry Bags:** Organizes clothing inside your duffel without using banned plastic bags.
- **Travel Documents & Cash:**
 - **Passport:** Valid passport (min. 6 months validity from entry date).
 - **Yellow Fever Vaccination Certificate:** Required if entering from endemic countries.
 - **Visa:** Tanzania Tourist Visa.
 - **Insurance:** Travel & Medical Insurance details.
 - **US Dollars (USD):** Crisp, undamaged USD bills printed after 2013 (older bills are not accepted in Tanzania) for tipping drivers/guides and local purchases.

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