



Kenya Safari & Coastal Gear Checklist

Malaika Travel Master Expedition Packing List

IMPORTANT TRIP OVERVIEW & PACKING RULES

- **Strict Luggage Limits for Bush Planes:** Internal safari flights (e.g., Safarilink, Airkenya between Nairobi, Masai Mara, Amboseli, and Diani) strictly enforce a 15 kg (33 lbs) weight limit per passenger (including hand luggage).
- **Soft Duffel Bags Only:** Hard-shell suitcases are strictly forbidden on bush planes and inside 4x4 safari vehicles/pop-up roof vans. Use a soft-sided duffel bag without a rigid frame.
- **Single-Use Plastic Ban:** Kenya strictly enforces a nationwide ban on single-use plastic bags. Use fabric packing cubes or breathable dry bags to organize your duffel.
- **Dust & Sun Protection:** Kenyan game drives (especially in Masai Mara, Amboseli, and Samburu) are extremely dry and dusty. A quality face buff and dust-proof camera covers are mandatory.
- **Color Strategy:** Wear neutral earth tones (khaki, beige, tan, olive, brown). Avoid dark blue and black (attracts Tsetse flies) and bright white or neon colors.

1. SAFARI APPAREL & DUST PROTECTION

- **Lightweight Long-Sleeve Safari Shirts (2–3x):** Breathable, quick-dry UV-protective shirts (essential for sun and insect protection).
- **Short-Sleeve T-Shirts / Polo Shirts (3–4x):** Moisture-wicking cotton or technical synthetic shirts in neutral colors.
- **Convertible / Lightweight Safari Trousers (2x):** Quick-dry trekking/safari pants (zip-off legs are ideal for changing daytime temperatures).
- **Safari Shorts (1–2x):** Comfortable shorts for hot afternoon game drives and lodge relaxation.
- **Warm Mid-Layer / Fleece Jacket (1x):** Warm fleece or Powerstretch jacket for early morning open-vehicle game drives.
- **Lightweight Windproof / Rain Jacket:** Packable windproof and waterproof jacket for breezy morning drives and sudden afternoon showers.
- **Dust Scarf / Buff / Bandana:** Essential protection against fine dust in Amboseli, Samburu, and Masai Mara.
- **Wide-Brim Sun Hat / Safari Cap:** Must feature an adjustable chin strap so it doesn't blow away in open-top 4x4 vehicles.

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info@malaikatravel.com	+44 7761 228972



- **Evening Casual Wear (1–2x):** Clean, smart-casual outfits for dinners at safari lodges and tented camps.

2. FOOTWEAR & CAMP COMFORT

- **Lightweight Trail Shoes / Breathable Sneakers:** Comfortable breathable walking shoes or light trail runners for game drives, bush walks, and airport travel. (Heavy high-top mountaineering boots are not required for standard Kenya safaris).
- **Moisture-Wicking Socks (4–5 pairs):** Merino wool or synthetic socks.
- **Light Sandals / Flip-Flops:** For wearing inside tented camps, lodges, and swimming pool areas.

3. KENYA COASTAL EXTENSION (DIANI BEACH & MOMBASA)

- **Swimwear (2–3x):** Swimsuits / board shorts.
- **Lightweight Beach Cover-Ups / Sarongs:** Easy to slip on when moving from the beach to lodge dining areas.
- **Water Shoes / Reef Shoes:** Recommended for walks during low tide on the Indian Ocean coast (protection against coral and sea urchins).
- **Respectful Coastal Apparel:** Lightweight, loose clothing covering shoulders and knees when visiting local coastal towns and historic areas (e.g., Mombasa Old Town).

4. ELECTRONICS, OPTICS & CAMERA CARE

- **Binoculars (10x42 or 8x42):** Essential—1 pair per traveler for spotting wildlife across vast savannahs.
- **Camera Equipment + Telephoto Lens:** DSLR / Mirrorless camera with a 200mm–600mm telephoto lens for high-quality wildlife shots.
- **Camera Dust Protection:** Sealed dry sacks or protective rain/dust covers to shield camera lenses and body from fine red dust.
- **High-Capacity Power Bank (10,000mAh–20,000mAh):** Charging outlets in remote tented bush camps often run on generators or solar power with restricted operational hours.
- **Universal Travel Adapter:** UK-style Type G plugs (3 square pins) are standard throughout Kenya.
- **Headlamp or Compact LED Flashlight:** Crucial for walking safely between your tent/ lodge and the dining areas after dark.

5. HYDRATION, HYGIENE & HEALTH

- **Reusable Stainless Steel / Nalgene Water Bottle (1x):** Insulated bottle to refill from your 4x4 vehicle’s water supply (helps eliminate plastic waste).

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- **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 spray to repel mosquitoes and tsetse flies during game drives.
- **Personal First Aid & Medications:**
 - **Prescription:** Anti-Malaria prophylaxis (consult your travel doctor), personal prescription drugs.
 - **General:** Imodium, Paracetamol/Ibuprofen, Motion sickness pills (for bumpy dirt tracks), Rehydration salts (ORS), Antihistamines, Blister plasters.
- **Toiletries & Hygiene:** Biodegradable wet wipes, hand sanitizer, lip balm, eye drops (essential for dry, dusty eyes on game drives).

6. PACKING & TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

- **Soft Duffel Bag (60L–90L):** Flexible bag without a rigid frame/wheels to comply with bush plane luggage compartments.
- **Daypack (20L–30L):** Kept with you in the safari vehicle for your camera, sunscreen, layers, binoculars, and water bottle.
- **Fabric Packing Cubes / Dry Sacks:** Keeps your clothes organized inside your duffel without violating Kenya's plastic bag ban.
- **Travel Documents & Cash:**
 - **Passport:** Valid passport (min. 6 months validity).
 - **Kenya eTA:** Electronic Travel Authorization approved before your flight.
 - **Yellow Fever Vaccination Card:** Required if arriving from/transiting through endemic areas.
 - **Insurance:** Travel & High-Altitude/Medical Insurance details.
 - **US Dollars (USD):** Crisp, undamaged USD bills printed after 2013 for tips (driver/ guides, camp staff) and local currency exchange into Kenyan Shillings (KES).

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