



PLAN YOUR TRIP

Packing for safari is part of the adventure. This guide has been created to help you prepare with confidence. With the right essentials, you'll be comfortable in every season and ready to embrace the magic of Karongwe.

CLOTHING & SEASONS | WHAT TO PACK

Packing for safari is about comfort, protection, and blending gently into the bush.

SEASONAL PACKING GUIDE

SUMMER | NOV-MAR

Hot, humid days (30–38°C / 86–100°F) with dramatic afternoon storms. The bush is lush and alive with young animals and birdlife.

- Light, breathable shirts and shorts (cotton or linen).
- A lightweight rain jacket or poncho.
- Sunglasses, sunscreen, insect repellent.

AUTUMN | APR-MAY

Warm days (25–30°C / 77–86°F) with cooler nights. The grasses thin, and golden light makes photography magical.

- Neutral-toned shirts and trousers.
- A light sweater or jacket for evenings.
- Scarf or buff for breezes on drives.

WINTER | JUNE-AUG

Dry, crisp mornings and evenings, clear sunny days (10–25°C / 50–77°F). Prime safari season, with wildlife gathering at waterholes.

- Long-sleeved shirts and trousers in neutral tones.
- Warm sweaters, jacket, scarf, gloves, and beanie for morning drives.
- Light clothing for midday warmth.

SPRING | SEPT-OCT

Warm, dry days (28–35°C / 82–95°F) before the rains return. Excellent game viewing continues, with early showers in late October.

- Light, breathable clothing in neutral tones.
- A warm layer for early mornings and evenings.
- Lightweight rain jacket (especially in late October).



ALWAYS-PACK PRINCIPLES

Neutral tones (khaki, olive, beige): These colours echo the landscape and help you blend naturally. Avoid bright white (too stark) and dark colours (attract insects).

- Layers: Mornings and evenings are cool, afternoons warm — pack items you can easily add or remove.
- Headwear: A wide-brimmed hat or cap is essential under the African sun.
- Closed shoes: Comfortable shoes or boots for drives and walks; sandals for lodge downtime.
- Swimming costume: Most lodges have pools, perfect for refreshing breaks between drives.

FOOTWEAR

- Closed shoes or light hiking boots: Essential for bush walks and drives, and also useful when you step out of the vehicle for coffee stops or sundowners in the bush.
- Sandals or flip-flops: Perfect for relaxing at the lodge or by the pool.

PERSONAL CARE & WELLNESS

- Sunscreen (high SPF): The African sun is intense, even in winter.
- Insect repellent: Lodges provide repellent, but you may prefer your own brand.
- Lip balm & moisturiser: The air can be dry, particularly in winter.
- Prescription medication: Carry prescriptions in their original packaging, along with extras - the reserve is remote.
- Spare contact lenses or glasses: Backups are always useful.
- Reusable water bottle: Staying hydrated is essential.

TRAVELLING WITH CHILDREN

A safari with children can be magical - their first elephant sighting, their wonder at the stars, their laughter by the pool. With a little extra preparation, the journey is smoother for everyone:

- Comfortable clothing in neutral tones, with warm layers for mornings.
- Wide-brimmed hat or cap, child-friendly sunscreen, and insect repellent.
- Swimwear for afternoons at the pool.
- A favourite toy, book, or blanket to help them feel at home.
- Prescription medicines and familiar snacks for travel days.

TECHNOLOGY & ACCESSORIES

Camera & binoculars: Capture sightings up close. Don't forget spare batteries, memory cards, and chargers.

- Adaptors & chargers: South Africa uses Type D & M plugs; a universal adaptor is recommended.
- Power bank: Ideal for long game drives.
- Backpack/carrybag: To carry essentials such as water, sunscreen, binoculars, and your camera.

DOCUMENTS & VALUABLES

- Passport & visa (if required): Ensure validity for at least six months beyond your stay.
- Travel insurance: Strongly recommended.
- Booking confirmations & driver's licence: If self-driving.
- Safes in rooms: Each room has a safe for passports, documents, and valuables. For ease, we recommend leaving expensive jewellery at home.



LAUNDRY

A laundry service is available at an additional cost. Same-day service can usually be arranged, weather permitting. Please note, dry cleaning is not offered.

GRATUITIES

Gratuities are not included in your stay, but always deeply appreciated. They are entirely at your discretion and may be given directly to staff or left at reception to be shared with the team.

SAFARI ETIQUETTE

Packing isn't just about what goes into your bag - it's also about what you bring in spirit. A few gentle practices help keep the bush in balance, ensuring every guest - and every creature - feels at ease:

- Move gently and speak softly: Wildlife is most relaxed when vehicles are calm. Quiet moments often lead to the most memorable encounters.
- Dress in natural tones: Blending in avoids startling animals and enhances the experience.
- Travel light: Soft bags fit best in safari vehicles and charter flights.
- Be present: Take your photos, then pause to simply watch — the memory of a lion's roar or a bird in flight lingers long after.
- Respect the bush: Leave only footprints. Avoid littering, picking plants, or feeding animals. Everything here has its place.

BEFORE YOU GO

- Confirm transfers or self-drive arrangements.
- Share dietary requirements with us in advance.
- Check safari drive schedules to ensure smooth arrivals.
- Pack light, pack thoughtfully - and bring your curiosity.

*Packing is not a task to rush – it's the beginning of your safari story.
With each item tucked into your bag, the Karongwe adventure draws nearer.*

