

Tanzania safari packing list

Northern circuit — Tarangire, Serengeti & Ngorongoro

A northern-circuit safari is dusty, hot by day and genuinely cold at dawn on the Ngorongoro rim. Pack for both, keep it soft-sided, and bring binoculars — that last one is the thing people most often wish they had.

Documents

Carry paper copies as well as photos on your phone — signal is poor in the parks.

- ☐ **Passport, valid 6+ months beyond arrival · worth the space**
- ☐ **Tanzania visa**
\$50 for most nationalities, \$100 for US passports. Available on arrival or online in advance.
- ☐ **Yellow fever certificate**
Required if you arrive from, or transited over 12 hours through, a country with risk of transmission.
- ☐ **Travel insurance documents · worth the space**
Check it actually covers safari activities — and read the altitude and ballooning exclusions.
- ☐ **Copies of everything, stored separately**

Clothing

Neutral colours: khaki, olive, beige, brown. Avoid dark blue and black — they attract tsetse flies. Leave camouflage patterns at home; wearing them is restricted in Tanzania.

- ☐ **T-shirts and long-sleeved shirts**
Long sleeves protect against both sun and mosquitoes at dusk.
- ☐ **Fleece or warm jacket · worth the space**
The Ngorongoro rim can drop near 10°C before sunrise. This is the single most underpacked item.
- ☐ **Light rain jacket**
January can bring short afternoon showers.
- ☐ **Trousers — one light, one warmer**
- ☐ **Wide-brimmed hat and sunglasses · worth the space**
- ☐ **Buff or light scarf**
For dust on the road to the Serengeti. You will use it.
- ☐ **Swimwear**
Most lodges have a pool.

Footwear

- ☐ **Closed walking shoes or light boots**
- ☐ **Sandals or flip-flops for camp**

Health and first aid

Your guide carries a first-aid kit, but bring your own personal supply.

- ☐ **Malaria prophylaxis · worth the space**
Start before you arrive — talk to a travel clinic well ahead of time.
- ☐ **Insect repellent with DEET · worth the space**
- ☐ **Sunscreen SPF 30+ and lip balm with SPF · worth the space**
You are near the equator at altitude; it burns faster than you expect.
- ☐ **Personal prescription medication**
In original packaging, with enough for the whole trip plus a few days.
- ☐ **Rehydration salts**
- ☐ **Motion-sickness tablets**
Park roads are corrugated and the drives are long.
- ☐ **Hand sanitiser and wet wipes**
- ☐ **Basic blister and plaster kit**

Kit that makes the trip better

- ☐ **Binoculars — 8x42 or 10x42 · worth the space**
The one piece of kit people regret not bringing. A leopard 200 m away is a smudge without them.
- ☐ **Camera with a zoom lens**
300 mm or more if you have it. Wildlife rarely comes close enough for a phone.
- ☐ **Power bank and spare batteries**
Camp power is often generator-limited to set hours.
- ☐ **Universal adapter · worth the space**
Tanzania uses plug types D and G at 230 V — the same three-pin plug as the UK.
- ☐ **Head torch**
For camps without mains power after dark.
- ☐ **Dry bag or large ziplock bags**
Dust gets into everything. Protect camera gear and electronics.
- ☐ **Refillable water bottle**
1.5 L of drinking water per person per day is included.
- ☐ **Small daypack**
- ☐ **Paperback or e-reader**
The drive from Arusha to the Serengeti is long.

Money

Tanzania is largely cash-based outside hotels. Bring US dollars and change a little into shillings for markets.

- ☐ **US dollars, series 2009 or newer · worth the space**
Older or damaged notes are widely refused, and torn notes will be handed back.
- ☐ **Small denominations for tips**
\$5, \$10 and \$20 notes. Large bills are hard to break.
- ☐ **A card for lodges and the airport**
Visa and Mastercard are accepted at most lodges; ATMs exist in Arusha but not in the parks.

Luggage

- ☐ **Soft-sided duffel bag · worth the space**
Hard suitcases do not pack well into a Land Cruiser's roof space.
- ☐ **A smaller bag for the vehicle**
Keep camera, binoculars, water and sunscreen within reach during game drives.

Leave at home

- ☐ **Camouflage clothing**
Restricted for civilians in Tanzania.
- ☐ **Plastic carrier bags**
Single-use plastic bags are banned on entry.
- ☐ **Drone**
Requires permits arranged long in advance; assume you cannot fly it.
- ☐ **Dark blue and black clothing**
Attracts tsetse flies, whose bite is painful.

Questions before you travel? Message us on WhatsApp — we are based in Arusha and reply ourselves.
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