

## Downloadable Packing Checklist:

### Equipment:

- Camera(s)
- Lens(es)
- Flash
- Extra batteries/Charger
- Extra memory cards (more than you think you need!)
- Tri- or mono-pod, remote
- Raincoat for each camera
- Cleaning kit
- Lens caps
- 2 plastic grocery/produce bags (dust/rain protection)
- Small wicking towel
- Laptop with Lightroom/Photoshop CC installed
- Hard drive/card reader
- Cords/cables
- Headlamp or flashlight plus one set of extra batteries
- Sunglasses that do not interfere with viewfinder and seeing camera settings
- Backpack for camera gear
- Electrical converters: see <http://www.voltageconverters.com/voltageguide.htm> or <https://www.power-plugs-sockets.com> for guides for specific countries. Pre-purchase converters or adapters if you can. You can usually purchase converters at the airport when you arrive but keep in mind that you will be tired and that stores may be closed. We typically carry at least 2 converters for camera and phone charging when we travel. Lodges and hotels do not always have extra converters.

### Clothing (check the forecast at your destination and adjust accordingly):

- 2 Pants—we suggest hiking or walking type of pants in natural fabric. Jeans can be hot, cold, and uncomfortable in open safari vehicles. 1 pair of convertible hiking pants can double as shorts.
- Shirts:
  - 2-3 short sleeved shirts (wicking sports shirts are suggested for comfort)
  - 2 lightweight long-sleeved shirts for warmth or sun-protection
  - 2 tank tops for hot weather **OR**
  - 2 silk thermal shirts + longjohns in cold climates
- Lightweight fleece-type hoodie, front-zip for flexibility
- Lightweight rain jacket with hood
- 1 Shorts
- Lightweight Scarf (nice for chilly temps, useful in many ways)
- Swimsuit
- 3 Shoes: sandals or flip flops, trail-type hiking shoes, casual slip-ons
- Pajamas and soft slippers
- Personal underclothing (socks, undies, bras)— typically 5 of each. Sports bras are more comfortable due to road conditions on safari and in transit on rural roads
- Hat –safari hat, baseball cap, straw fedora
- Compression stockings for flights over 3 hours long (available at most pharmacies)
- Warm hat, gloves
- Belts, ties

### Toiletries & Healthcare :

- (3 oz sizes)- shampoo, conditioner, soap (a small soap in a mint tin travels well)
- Lip balm
- Skin products, hand lotion, make-up, cleansers
- Toothpaste, toothbrush, dental floss
- Razor
- Brush/comb
- Tweezers

Nail care  
Tissues (travel packs)  
Feminine hygiene  
Glasses, sunglasses, contact lenses and supplies, glasses cases  
Insect repellent—DEET wipes are available at most sporting goods stores  
Small terrycloth towel (hand-size)  
Prescription medication (bring at least 7 days extra supply), copy of Rx  
Aspirin/pain reliever/cough drops/antacid/antihistamine/laxative/anti-diarrheal, etc

**Documents (plus a hard copy and email copy of all important documents):**

Plane tickets  
Itinerary with contact numbers and addresses at destination  
Emergency contact information  
Passport/visa (if required)  
ID  
Shot record/health documents if needed  
Copy of Travel/Medical insurance info  
Credit cards with a PIN for cash withdrawals. Do not bring debit cards linked to your checking account! Your bank can provide you with a PIN for your credit card for cash advances.  
Cash—Check with your bank to compare exchange rates and transaction fees before exchanging money prior to departing your country. We usually carry a small amount of cash when traveling for tips and small purchases at the airport. Withdrawing cash at bank ATMs in the host country usually ensures much lower transaction fees and the best possible exchange rate, and is much easier, faster, and more convenient than exchanging in a bank.

**Miscellaneous:**

Cellphone/charger  
Journal/pens  
Business cards  
Eyeshade/ear plugs/neck pillow  
Snacks/powdered drink mixes/tea bags/empty water bottle  
Books/magazines/iPod/e-reader/ear-buds  
Tissues/wipes (travel size)  
Travel-size combination padlocks for each bag; small cable to secure bags together at airports during layovers. General and hardware stores usually sell TSA-approved locks for checked bags, any small strong lock will do for carry-ons. Choose a combination that is easy to remember. Avoid keyed locks for obvious reasons.

***Leave valuable jewelry at home***

When traveling, we always try to avoid checking bags. If you must check a bag, be sure to keep necessary items in your carry-on. We consider the following to be the necessary items from the suggested Packing List:

*All Equipment, one complete change of clothing suitable for safari plus all underclothing, pajamas, all Toiletries, hiking shoes, all Miscellaneous items, Documents, terrycloth towel, and anything else you deem necessary in case your checked bag disappears.*

If you are wearing the suggested layers while traveling, you will also have your jacket, hoodie, and a second complete set of clothing on. If the airline insists on checking a bag, you can use your pockets to store some of your necessary items. You can always buy clothing; it's much harder to buy a camera, lenses, and memory cards at your destination. NEVER check your camera equipment!

## Pre-trip Planning Checklist:

### Upon booking:

- Be sure passport has 6 months before expiration from your date of travel and empty visa pages
- Check airfares, book early
- Book accommodations for arrival and departure
- Contact your doctor to obtain copies of Rx and discuss medications for travel
- Review Health Requirements for your country of travel
- Contact a Travel Pharmacy for appointments for travel shots/meds if necessary
- Check your destinations' Customs/Immigration requirements

### 3 months prior:

- Obtain visa online (if required for entry)
- Obtain Travel and Medical insurance
- Obtain PIN for your credit cards, be sure it works
- Buy electrical converters and any clothing/equipment you want/need
- Review Packing List to be sure you have everything you need
- Confirm that your flights are still booked
- Consider an eye exam and new glasses
- Travel shots/Rx

### 1 month prior:

- Contact your bank, cell-phone provider, etc about your travel plans
- Exchange a small amount of money
- Photograph and email your important info to yourself.
- KNOW YOUR EMAIL PASSWORD.
- Make 2 copies of your important documents for travel and for home contact
- Be sure your clothing fits
- Fill all Rx (some pharmacies must special order malaria meds)

### 1 week prior:

- Provide your at-home travel contact with your itinerary and information
- Begin assembling everything in one location for packing/begin packing

### 3 days prior:

- Pack all major items
- Ensure all documents are in one place
- Buy snacks for the flight

### 1 day prior:

- Check in for your flight and choose a comfy seat
- Double-check your packing list, final packing
- Double-check documents and make sure you have them
- Hydrate
- Get a good night's sleep

### Day of Travel:

- Leave 3 hours early
- Text/email parking location to yourself
- Hydrate
- Enjoy!