

SIMS SAFARIS



WARM WEATHER SAFARI GEAR LIST



Use this checklist to gather essentials and gear recommended for warm weather Southern Africa safaris (Mid-September – April). After each item is packed, check the box to keep track. Most safari camps offer daily laundry service, so pack light.

TRAVEL ESSENTIALS

☐ Passport	☐ Yellow fever card (if transiting endemic country)
☐ 4457 Form (firearm proof of ownership)	☐ Vaccination records
☐ Visa (if required)	☐ Invitation letter (if required)
☐ Rifle permit (multiple copies)	☐ Emergency contact list
☐ CITES permits (if applicable)	☐ USD cash (tips + incidentals)
☐ Travel insurance documents	☐ Credit card
☐ Global Rescue membership card	☐ Digital copies of all docs (emailed to yourself)

★ Make several physical copies of all documents. You will be asked to present them multiple times throughout your trip.

FIREARMS & AMMUNITION

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■ Hard locking gun case	■ .270 or 30 cal class rifle for plains game
■ Combination locks x2 (recommended over TSA locks)	■ .375+ for dangerous game
■ Soft gun case or sock for in-camp use	■ Ammo (enough for the hunt plus range time)
■ Hard locked ammo case	■ Ammo holders or belt
■ Gun cleaning supplies (oil, wipes, bore snake)	■ Shooting sticks or tripod
■ Ear plugs / ear protection	■ Tip money (separate from travel cash)

★ Check current airline and country-specific firearm regulations before travel — rules change frequently.

OPTICS & ELECTRONICS

■ Binoculars — 10x42 (open country) or 8x32 (thick bush)	■ GoPro or action cam (optional for content)
■ Rangefinder	■ Headphones for travel
■ Sunglasses	■ Phone charger + international power adapter
■ Camera	■ Portable power bank
■ SD cards (multiple)	■ Power inverter for destination

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■ Spare batteries for camera and scope

■ Hard case for camera gear

■ Garmin inReach or satellite communicator

■ Lens cleaning kit for optics

FIELD GEAR

■ Flashlight

■ Headlamp

■ Gaiters — leather or canvas

■ Leatherman multi-tool

■ Field knife

■ Bug spray — DEET 30–50%

■ Dry bags or zip locks (dust and moisture protection)

■ Taxidermy shipping tags (2 per animal minimum)

■ Zip ties for shipping tags

■ Treats for staff — gum, candy, tobacco

■ Small gifts for staff (knives, gloves, hats)

■ Book or reading material for downtime

★ If hunting in a tsetse fly area, Avon Skin So Soft with IR3535 or Avon Bug Guard works very well and is worth packing alongside your regular DEET spray.

CLOTHING

■ Hunting shirts — 1 long sleeve, 2 short sleeve

■ Beanie for cold mornings

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■ Hunting pants / shorts x3	■ Neck gaiter / buff / scarf
■ Boots — Jim Greens or quality trail/running shoe	■ Gloves — leather (great for thorns)
■ Socks x4–5 pairs	■ Heavy jacket — cotton or waxed canvas, rip resistant
■ Underwear x4–5 pairs	■ Lightweight rain jacket (only if rain in forecast)
■ Belt	■ Camp shoes — crocs, flip flops, or sneakers
■ Hunting cap	■ Swimsuit (if camp has a pool)
	■ Compression socks for long haul flights

★ *Pack light — most camps offer daily laundry service. Your hunting shirts double as travel clothes, sleep clothes, and in-flight wear. Two short sleeve shirts and one long sleeve is plenty alongside your jacket. Rain jacket only needed if weather calls for it. For most of southern Africa, a quality trail running shoe works just as well as a heavy leather boot.*

FIRST AID, HYGIENE & TOILETRIES

■ Personal prescriptions and medications	■ Malaria pills (if recommended for your region)
■ Written personal medication list (for emergencies)	■ Eye drops
■ Aspirin / ibuprofen / acetaminophen	■ Eye glass cleaner / spare glasses or contacts

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■ Bandages, gauze, tape, elastic wraps

■ Antiseptic cream / Neosporin

■ Antidiarrheal medication (Imodium)

■ Anti-nausea medication

■ Rehydration salts / electrolyte packets

■ Sunscreen and after-sun lotion

■ Lip balm with SPF

■ Wet wipes / baby wipes

■ Hand sanitizer

■ Scissors, tweezers, nail clippers, razor

■ Travel size shampoo and conditioner

■ Toothpaste and toothbrush

■ Blister treatment / moleskin

★ Consult a travel medicine specialist 4–6 weeks before departure. Medical facilities are excellent in cities but very limited in the bush — be prepared.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS

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For more resources, packing lists by season, and pre-vetted outfitters visit SimsSafaris.com | By McKenzie Sims