

Safari Guest Preparation Checklist for MasaiMara.ke

1. Travel Documents and Identification

- Passport: Ensure your passport is valid for at least 6 months beyond your travel dates.
- Visa: Confirm if a visa is required and obtain one in advance if necessary.
- Travel Insurance: Verify that you have comprehensive travel insurance covering medical, emergency evacuation, and safari activities.
- Flight Tickets: Confirm your flight bookings and keep copies of your tickets or e-tickets.
- Emergency Contact Information: Have a list of important contacts, including embassy information and local emergency numbers.

2. Clothing and Footwear

- Safari Clothing: Pack lightweight, neutral-colored clothing (e.g., khaki, beige) suitable for warm days and cool evenings.
- Layered Clothing: Include warm layers such as a fleece or light jacket for early morning or evening game drives.
- Rain Gear: Carry a light, waterproof jacket or poncho, especially during the rainy season.
- Comfortable Footwear: Bring sturdy, comfortable walking shoes or boots for safari excursions.
- Hat and Sunglasses: Pack a wide-brimmed hat and UV-protected sunglasses to shield yourself from the sun.

3. Health and Safety

- Vaccinations: Ensure all required vaccinations are up to date, including yellow fever and malaria prophylaxis if necessary.
- Prescription Medications: Bring enough prescription medications to last the duration of your trip, along with a copy of your prescription.
- First Aid Kit: Carry a basic first aid kit with bandages, antiseptic wipes, pain relievers, and insect repellent.
- Sunscreen: Pack high-SPF sunscreen to protect against strong UV rays.

- Hand Sanitizer and Face Masks: Include hand sanitizer and face masks for hygiene and COVID-19 precautions.

4. Safari Gear and Equipment

- Binoculars: Bring a good pair of binoculars for wildlife spotting.
- Camera and Extra Batteries: Pack your camera, spare batteries, and memory cards for capturing safari moments.
- Power Bank: Bring a portable charger or power bank to keep devices charged during long game drives.
- Torch/Flashlight: Carry a small torch or flashlight for night-time use.
- Backpack/Daypack: Use a comfortable daypack to carry essentials during safari excursions.

5. Food and Drink Essentials

- Water Bottle: Carry a refillable water bottle to stay hydrated throughout the day.
- Snacks: Bring non-perishable snacks such as granola bars or nuts for long drives.
- Dietary Requirements: Notify the safari operator of any dietary restrictions or allergies in advance.

6. Cash and Payments

- Local Currency: Ensure you have enough local currency (Kenyan Shillings) for tips, small purchases, and emergencies.
- Credit/Debit Cards: Bring international credit or debit cards, and inform your bank of your travel plans to avoid any card-blocking issues.
- Tips and Gratuities: Prepare cash for tipping guides, drivers, and camp staff as appropriate.

7. Environmental and Conservation Considerations

- Reusable Items: Use reusable water bottles, bags, and containers to reduce plastic waste.
- Eco-Friendly Toiletries: Pack biodegradable and environmentally friendly toiletries to minimize environmental impact.
- Leave No Trace: Follow the 'leave no trace' principles to preserve the environment, including not disturbing wildlife or littering.

8. Personal Preferences and Comfort

- Travel Pillow: Bring a neck pillow for comfortable rest during flights and game drives.
- Reading Material: Pack books, magazines, or e-readers for downtime between activities.
- Entertainment: Download music, podcasts, or movies onto your devices for long travel periods.

9. Local Etiquette and Cultural Awareness

- Respect Local Customs: Be mindful of local traditions and cultural practices, particularly when interacting with the Maasai people.
- Dress Respectfully: Dress modestly when visiting villages or interacting with local communities.
- Photography Etiquette: Always ask for permission before taking photos of people or private areas.

10. Final Preparations

- Itinerary Confirmation: Double-check your safari itinerary, including accommodation and activity bookings.
- Emergency Plan: Know the emergency procedures for medical evacuation or other unforeseen circumstances.
- Luggage Weight: Ensure your luggage meets airline weight restrictions, especially for light aircraft flights to and from the Masai Mara.