

Naipenda



safaris

T A N Z A N I A

BEFORE YOU GO:

"zip-off-to-shorts cargo pants" can save space in your luggage. Several short-sleeved shirts and long sleeved shirts should be of 100% cotton or nylon for quick drying. Tops with roll-up sleeves are also recommended. For women, skirts can be a welcome addition on the hottest days. As can jumpers coupled with a t-shirt. While you don't need "dinner" clothing, it's refreshing to shower and change clothing after a game drive and in preparation for dinner. Most of the larger hotels have very nice swimming pools so bring your suit if you enjoy a relaxing swim. Women: even if you don't normally wear a bra, you should consider wearing a sport bra as roads are rutted and much "bouncing" will occur. During certain times of the year it can be very cool especially around the crater area. Pack a sweater or light jacket for those days.

Many of the hotels and lodges where you'll be staying do have laundry service and it is very affordable. So consider that as an alternative to bringing too many clothes. If you are on a camping program, laundry is included.

Shoes: One or two pair of closed-toe shoes (one of which should be tennis shoes) are sufficient. Comfortable sandals such as Teva or Merrell are recommended. There will be several opportunities for hiking, so your tennis shoes can double as hiking boots. If you plan to hike and have weak ankles, consider purchasing high-top tennis shoes.

Other necessary items include: a flashlight, heavy-duty zip-lock plastic bags, mid to small trash bags, luggage locks, shoe bags, a small amount of liquid detergent for hand-washing delicate items, a small sewing kit for quick repairs, bug repellent (the more Deet the better) a small tube of Neosporin antibacterial ointment, an anti-bacterial hand sanitizer such as Purel in liquid form and cloths, a small Swiss Army knife with scissors, nail clippers, a sun hat and sunscreen, eye drops for dry eyes, washcloth (they are not provided at the hotels but are in camp), voltage converters for 230V, and plug converter for the United Kingdom. This is, of course, only if you use a hair dryer, electric shaver, or have camera equipment that needs recharging. Many of the hotels/lodges operate on generators and turn them off at night - hence the need for the flashlight. Some of the smaller lodges ask that you not use hairdryers at all. If you are not used to heat and humidity, bring several cotton bandanas. Nothing cools you down quicker than a wet bandana wrapped around the neck.

There is an emergency first-aid kit (and toilet paper) in the vehicle.

YOUR CAMERA:

Please be sure to bring plenty of film or extra memory cards for digital photography/video. Also bring extra batteries for your camera. Lithium batteries are often non-existent in Tanzania. If your camera/video equipment uses a great deal of battery power, you may also want to consider bringing re-chargeable batteries and a battery charger. Because of the possible level of dust, you may want to consider a heavy-duty plastic or trash bag to keep your camera in when on game drives. You can cut a hole in it for the lens. A polarizing filter is also useful. If you choose to carry a video or digital camera, remember that recharging the batteries will require a voltage converter.

Under no circumstances are you to photograph people without their permission. If you see someone you want to take a photograph of, ask your guide to negotiate a price for you - the Maasai are especially touchy about obtaining money for their likeness.

FOOD:

Meals are generally served buffet style. Breakfasts are large English-style meals and times will be posted at your hotel, lunch is generally at 1 or 2pm and dinner begins at 7:30pm. As the saying goes, if you don't peel it or wash it yourself, do not eat it! Dairy and milk products are also "local" so be cautious of these as well. However, many of the hotels where you'll be staying not only boil