

THE BUSHCAMP COMPANY

SOUTH LUANGWA NATIONAL PARK ZAMBIA

PACKING RECOMMENDATIONS

Below are our packing recommendations for a 7-14 day safari

YOUR MAIN BAG

We suggest a sturdy, soft duffle type bag, **NOT hard a suitcase** – these fit more easily into smaller aircraft & also into the safari vehicles. **DO NOT exceed 15kg** (excess luggage can be paid for at the Proflight Desk in Lusaka, but will only be allowed on the flight if there is space – if too heavy it may be left behind!)

YOUR DAY PACK

Pack essentials in your carry on; valuables, documents, prescription medication and a change of clothes. We also suggest that you keep cash in more than one place.

ESSENTIALS

We strongly recommend that each person should have:

- **their own pair of binoculars** – we recommend Swarovski, Bushnell & Pentax (sharing binoculars does not work)
- **torch/flashlight**
- **wide brimmed hat**

CLOTHES

Mfuwe Lodge & all of our bushcamps have a complimentary daily laundry service – so there is no need to bring too much (towels are also provided).

What you wear on safari is very important, below are guidelines:

- Comfortable, closed walking shoes/boots for your walks.
- Acceptable dull bush colours are **khaki, green, brown or grey**.
- We do **NOT** recommend you wear **blue** or **black** - this attracts tsetse flies.
- Bright colours, especially **white**, stand out to animals & may be dangerous.
- A hat/cap, sunglasses and sun-screen are strongly recommended.
- Early morning & night-drives can be cold, so bring a fleece/jumper with you – this can be left in the vehicle once it warms up.

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PACKING CHECK LIST

We suggest you bring with you the following on your safari:

ESSENTIALS

- 1 x binoculars per person
- 1 x torch/flashlight per person (with spare batteries)

CLOTHING

'Bush colours' - green/brown/khaki/grey (not pale or white)

Day Wear

- 1 x pair of light walking boots/closed shoes/trainers (not white)
- 1 x pair sandals
- 1 x wide brimmed hat &/or baseball cap
- 1 x sunglasses
- 2-3 pairs trousers/long pants
- 2-3 pairs shorts
- 2-3 t-shirts
- 2-3 long sleeve shirts

Evening Wear

- 1-2 sets of casual evening clothes (long-trousers & long-sleeves to reduce insect bites – any colour)
- 1 x medium weight sweater or fleece
- 1 x deck-shoes/smart-casual shoes (optional)

For Winter (June, July & early August)

- 1 x warm/wind proof jacket
- 1 x warm/wooly hat (invaluable on cold mornings drives)
- 1 x pair of gloves (invaluable on cold mornings drives)
- 1 x scarf

Other Clothes

- 3-4 pairs of light weight socks
- 3-4 pairs of underwear
- 1 x pyjamas/something to wear in bed
- 1 x swimsuit

Other

- toiletries & medicine
- cash (ideally \$10, \$20 & \$50 US\$ post 2006 bills)
- camera – with charger, spare memory cards & battery

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OTHER PACKING RECOMMENDATIONS

COSMETICS & MEDICINE

Toiletries – shampoo, shower-gel, soap & moisturizer – as well as insect repellent are provided in your room at the Lodge & each Bushcamp. A first-aid kit is also held at Mfuwe Lodge, each Bushcamp and in the guides' vehicles.

We suggest you bring with you the following:

- wash bag
- high factor suntan lotion, moisturizer & lip-balm
- anti-histamine cream & tablets
- painkillers & sleeping tablets (if appropriate)
- toothpaste & tooth brush
- razor (not electric) & shaving foam/gel
- own personal toiletries & medication
- any personal medication (including malaria medication) should be carried with you at all times.

CAMERA EQUIPMENT

If not a keen photographer then a small digital camera will suffice. But if you are a keen photographer we suggest bringing the following equipment:

- 1 x camera body – make sure you know how to use it before you leave home
- 1 x spare camera body (optional)
- 1 x wide angle (zoom) lens (35-80mm)
- 1 x telephoto lens (zoom) (80mm up to 500mm, but 200/300mm will suffice)
- 1 x flash – for night drives
- lots of spare memory cards (1 to 8 GBs)
- charger & spare battery(ies)
- camera cleaning equipment
- bean bag/ monopod/small tripod
- dust proof padded camera bag
- video Camera – with lots of memory plus spare batteries (optional)
- laptop/iPad for image storage/backup (optional)

All camps have recharging facilities with international plug adaptors – for cameras, iPods, laptops etc (but not for hairdryers or electric razors)

OPTIONAL (but recommended)

- prescription glasses, plus a spare pair
- contact lenses & spares (bring glasses too - dust can be a problem)
- ladies - a sports bra – for the bumpy roads
- reading matter & guide/identification books (each camp has a small library)
- head torch & spare batteries
- zip-lock bags – always useful
- adaptor plug (to convert to UK 3 square pinned socket)
- sewing kit
- earplugs – for hippo grunting at night!

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Bringing Gifts for Student Prizes

If you have space left in your suitcase, you might want to bring out a few small items with you to donate. We use these gifts as motivational prizes at the end of each term for the teachers to award to the top performing students; ideal donations include:

- Pens, Pencils, Rubbers/Erasers & Pencil Sharpeners
- Pencil Cases & Calculators
- Wind up Torches
- Card Games
- Any type of Arts & Crafts Materials
- Balloons & Stickers (great motivational tool for younger pupils)
- Footballs with Pumps & Sports Kits

MONEY TIPS

When in Zambia it is necessary to pay for any extras, airport taxes, curios etc in the local currency - the **Zambian Kwacha**. Dollars, Pounds Sterling and Euros can be changed at one of the banks at Lusaka and Mfuwe Airports, or you can draw Zambian Kwacha from the ATM machines also at these Airports. Certain other establishments also accept payment by card, but we strongly advise that you carry a supply of local cash with you on your safari. The US Dollar tends to be the foreign currency that is most easily changed by banks in Zambia (although old “small headed” \$5-\$100 notes are not accepted). It is advisable to bring a range of US Dollar note denominations (\$5 to \$100) with you on safari. **It is currently not possible to purchase Kwacha outside of Zambia.**

Visas & Airport Taxes (*subject to change without notice*)

- **\$50** – Visa, payable upon arrive in Zambia (may vary depending on nationality)
- **ZMK 84,480 - Domestic Flights:** (ZMK42,240 Passenger Service, ZMK15,840 Aviation Security & ZMK26,400 Aviation Infrastructure Charges) payable at the airport before each departure upon check-in (may be included in your ticket)
- **ZMK52 800** - for most **International Flights**. This Aviation Infrastructure Charge is payable before going through for International Departures - it is advisable to allow a little extra time to check in for this process to avoid any delays.

Tipping

By no means expected, however always gratefully received. As a guideline, we suggest to budget for between **US\$5 & US\$20 per person per day**. US dollars (try to avoid \$1 bills) British Pounds, Euros or Zambian Kwacha are all most welcome.

Curios

Can be purchased at Mfuwe Lodge, Mfuwe International Airport or several curio shops in Mfuwe – Kwacha cash is always the easiest payment option, although most have facilities to pay by credit card (incurring transaction fees)

Extras Payment

Extras can be paid for at Mfuwe Lodge in cash or by VISA & Master Cards (there is a 3.5% surcharge for card transactions). **We do not accept Travellers Cheques.**

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OTHER INFO

iPad & iPone Apps

Guests coming on safari with iPhones or iPads might want to check out the following links or search on the Apple Apps Store for these useful Apps (Android and other devices may have similar Apps):

My Digital Earth: [African Mammal, Birds, Wildlife & Trees](#)

Roberts Birds: [Southern African Birds](#)

Pocket Univers: [Stars](#)

Star Walk: [Stars](#)

uTalk HD Chichewa: [Local Language](#)

US Citizens

Are asked to enroll in the U.S. Embassy Lusaka's **Smart Travel Program** [online here](#)