Kenya Safaris: Packing Tips for a Top-Class Tour by Parrish Karli

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Packing for your Kenya safari must be with reference to the number of days you're staying, plus the kind of activities that are there on your itinerary. Carry a few extras for unexpected situations or evenings out dining/dancing etc. Though it's hot, you may wish to take shirts and tops with long sleeves in lightweight breathable fabrics to protect your arms from getting sun-burnt. Medications, extra painkillers, lip-balm, anti-histamines for insect bites/allergies and extra pairs of shoes/socks should go into your kit. You may require warm clothes if you're traveling between June-September. Pack lightweight rain-gear and umbrellas as sudden showers could occur.

If you're staying at one of the Kenya safari lodges, your tour-operator will organize safari timings and vehicles for a day-long excursion into the game reserve, with night-stay in a tenting campsite, or it could be just a few hoursâ€™ drive at dawn or dusk, a noontime ride into the Savannah to spot the wildlife resting.

Whatever the duration of the trip, make sure that you are well-equipped. Take a compact, soft-fabric tote bag along for each person, with extra toiletries, medication and spare batteries for your cameras. Your tour-operator may advise you on the right clothes to wear â€“ otherwise, stick to comfortable, non-synthetic fabrics in neutral, dull colors and sturdy comfortable footwear if there's any walking involved. Sunscreen, sunglasses and shady hats are a must for the bright, hot sunshine. Mosquito-repellent cream and a first-aid kit are another essential. Remember to pack extra pairs of binoculars for all family-members and simple point-and-shoot cameras for youngsters. If you have children traveling with you, take plenty of small bottles of juice or water, as they can get quickly dehydrated in the sun. Carrying snacks or fruit is a good idea provided kids do not litter or throw stuff out of the windows.

For wildlife enthusiasts, guidebooks and reference manuals can be part of your luggage. Many travelers have found that small key-chains, note-books, souvenirs from their own countries or pens/pencils are nice to have on hand while visiting the Masai villages and interacting with the local children. Also, if you're traveling to Muslim majority areas in Mombasa etc, make sure that you're appropriately dressed so that you don't offend the locals.

Whether you're a seasoned traveler or a first-time tourist, a safari in Kenya is one of the most unique experiences you'll have in your life. To make your trip enjoyable and hassle-free, it's a good idea to plan ahead and take care of every little detail so that you can be free to experience the beauty of the place and view the gorgeous flora and fauna of the country.

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