

I've Been on Almost 50 African Safaris, and These Are the 16 Items I Never Travel Without

From game-changing gadgets to sun-protective clothing, you'll be so happy that you packed these products.

By **Becca Blond** | Published on May 14, 2023 06:00AM EDT



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Africa has been one of my favorite continents to travel to since college when I got to study abroad in Zimbabwe. It was here that I experienced my first safari, and since then, I've returned to Africa 17 times and racked up close to 50 safari days in eight different countries.

My most recent safari experience was in Kenya's Masai Mara, which has the world's highest density of wild animals. I spent a week with [Basecamp Explorer](#), an ethical and eco-friendly African safari tour company dedicated to conservation, visiting three of their safari camps in Masai Mara National Park and the adjacent Mara Naboisho Conservancy. During my week in the bush, I saw a wildebeest being born (a first for me!), a leopard eating its kill in a tree, and more lions and elephants than I could count.

However, choosing the right safari operator is often easier than packing for the trip itself, which is truly an art form because most safaris require you to arrive and depart via small aircrafts — and there's always a weight limit for what passengers can carry.

As part of Basecamp's conservation efforts, the safari outfitter encourages visitors to plant a tree in the [Basecamp Tree Plantation and Nursery](#), which I made sure to do during my trip. And, I did so in a pair of ACBC sneakers made from recycled materials.

My travel writer friend [Lola Méndez](#) was on the Basecamp Explorer safari with me, and I admit that I was super envious of her wardrobe — particularly this one tank top that she brought, which paired so well with all of her outfits. It was also breathable and great for layering, a.k.a. key elements for safari clothes.