

PACKING FOR TRACKING





Some of you may have been on safari before and have the question of “what to pack?” down to a fine art! However, for many, excitingly, it will be your first time tracking endangered black rhino ON FOOT in Northern Kenya! And this raises a whole new level of “what do I wear” questions. Luckily for you – we’ve had time (and practice!) to think this through. You will most likely be visiting our ‘small but perfectly formed’ camp, Saruni Rhino and participating in rhino tracking as an addition to your other safaris in Kenya. This packing guide – ‘Packing for Tracking’ – specifically relates to the **SARUNI RHINO TRACKING EXPERIENCE**. For ‘normal’ safari packing considerations, you should familiarize yourself with the ‘Saruni Basecamp Safari Packing List’.

Rhino tracking sessions can last anywhere between 2-4 hours, with varying walking distances depending on each track. Terrain is harsh and arid, bushy with thorns and grass burrs/stickers, with thorny Commiphora branches underfoot. The African sun can be unforgiving at any time of the day – maximum protection is strongly advised! More importantly on a safety note, the black rhino don’t have such sharp vision – but – hearing? Oh boy – we are not joking when we say, “Tread carefully”. Silence really is golden – so have in mind how ‘lightly’ your shoes or clothing allow you to walk. Smell is also a factor – your guides will keep you down-wind from the rhino, but avoiding perfumes and strong-smelling lotions is also advised.





WHAT TO WEAR OR BRING:



LONG SLEEVED SHIRT

(Ideal) or polo t-shirt (with collar). Sleeves and collars will avoid painful sunburn. Neutral colours.



FULL-LENGTH TROUSERS

If wearing shorts – then wrap-around gaiters (ideally) or knee-length socks (not ideal – but better than no socks!) Neutral colours.



GAITERS

(Lower leg & shoe protectors) – to protect you from thorns and thistles but also grass burrs or stickers that get absolutely everywhere – socks, shoelaces, and mosquito nets back in camp! Your socks will thank us for it – as will our Housekeeping Team! Alternatively, bring a spare pack of socks that you can throw away if torn. Jane Fonda-style 'legwarmers' not advisable due to grass burrs/stickers, plus, you may be detained by the Sera Conservancy Fashion Police.



SUN CREAM WITH HIGH PROTECTION FACTOR

Applied to face, arms, legs, back of neck. Please try and avoid strong-smelling creams.



Gym/tennis shoes, safari boots or lightweight walking shoes/boots. As long as they have a sturdy sole. There are many Commiphora branches underfoot and these may pierce your sole – #ouch! Light but sturdy footwear best. Avoid heavy walking/hiking boots as these can be too noisy/ heavy crunching the branches & leaves. Neutral colours. Avoid bright or neon colours.



SOCKS

If you are bringing socks instead of wrap-around gaiters, then shorter are better than longer. Neutral colours.



HAT

Full-brimmed safari hat or baseball cap (with sun cream on the ears and back of neck). Neutral colours.



SUNGLASSES

If eyes are sensitive to the sun's glare. Neutral colour = shades of brown, green or tan. Avoid white and light beiges as these will stand out in the bush.

Whilst you will more than likely want to bring water, cameras & lenses, phones and other equipment, back-packs or rucksacks can change the tracking experience, becoming heavy and cumbersome when walking long distances and hiding in bushes! Silence is the name of the game – and the changing of lenses, or the clicking and whirring of camera shutters many cause security risks. If you do bring camera equipment, best to have on straps, or in a lightweight bag. Camera shutters should be on silent/low as possible, and certainly no flashes!

Note: Saruni Rhino does have electrical outlets in the rooms, so whilst you are able to charge your phones and camera equipment, we ask you not to charge high-voltage items, as we operate on solar power and generators and high-voltage charging can have a negative impact for the camp and for other guests.

YOU ARE ALL SET. LET'S GET TRACKING – THE RHINOS ARE WAITING!