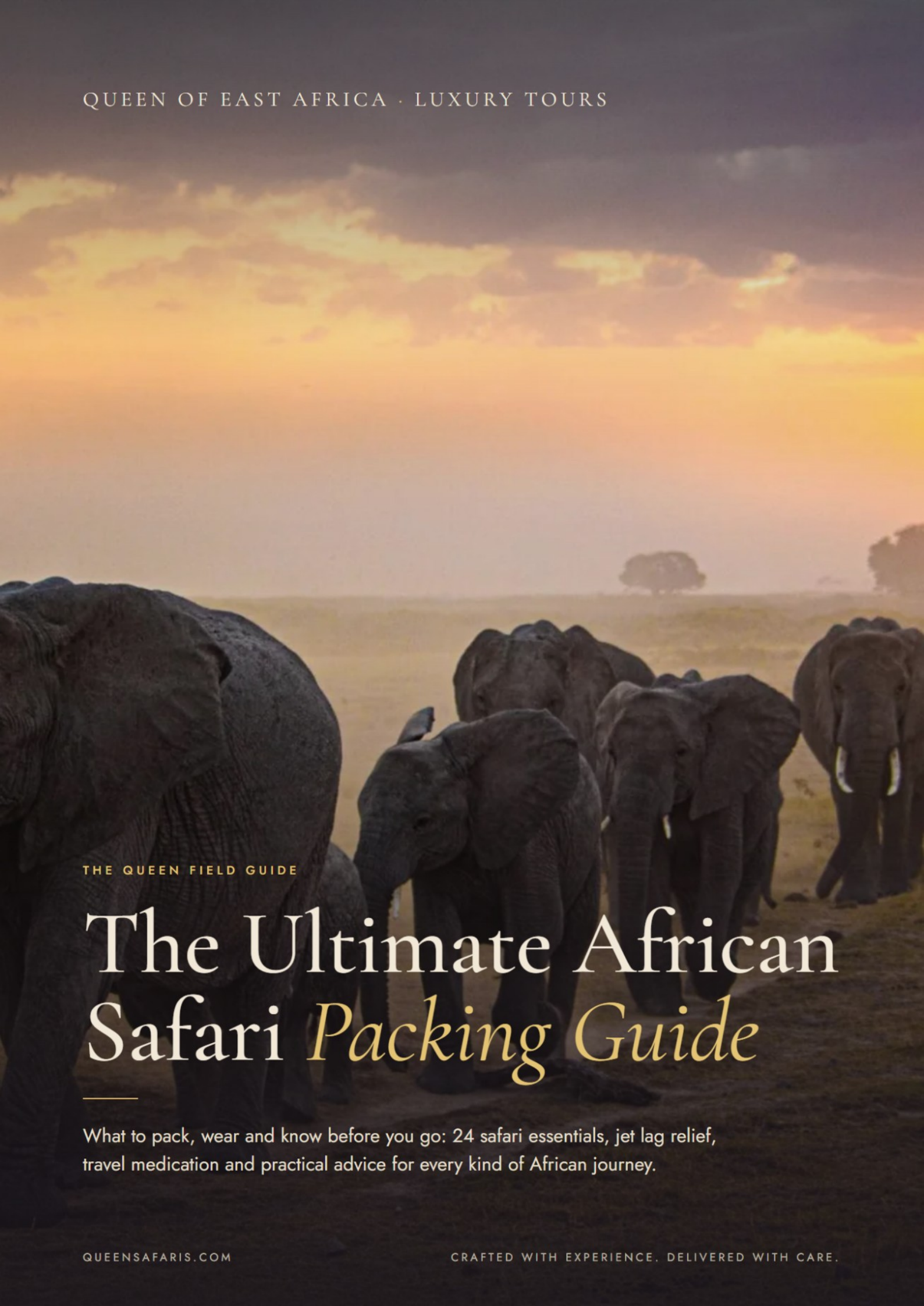

QUEEN OF EAST AFRICA · LUXURY TOURS

THE QUEEN FIELD GUIDE

The Ultimate African Safari *Packing Guide*

What to pack, wear and know before you go: 24 safari essentials, jet lag relief, travel medication and practical advice for every kind of African journey.

QUEENSAFARIS.COM

CRAFTED WITH EXPERIENCE. DELIVERED WITH CARE.

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

Pack well, and *forget the suitcase.*

All that remains is the land, the light and the animals.

An African safari is one of the world's most extraordinary travel experiences. From the endless plains of the Serengeti and the Maasai Mara to the Okavango Delta, Kruger National Park and the mountain gorilla forests of Uganda and Rwanda, Africa offers encounters with wildlife and wilderness that stay with you for life.

Preparing for one can feel overwhelming, especially the first time. What should you wear? Which medication should you bring? How do you manage long international flights, changing time zones and climates that shift from frosted dawns to hot afternoons in a single day?

Whether you are planning a luxury safari, a family adventure, a gorilla trek or a beach escape, this guide covers everything you need for a comfortable, well-prepared journey.

IN THIS GUIDE

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II The 24 Essentials

III What to Wear

IV By Experience

V Africa's Seasons

VI What Not to Bring

VII Questions

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Elephants beneath Kilimanjaro, Amboseli

The papers that *open the door.*

Requirements depend on your nationality, your route and sometimes the airports you connect through. Check them for every country on your itinerary.

Passport & Visas

At least six months' validity beyond your return date and several blank pages. Many African countries issue electronic visas or travel authorisations; apply through official government portals only, well before departure.

Flights

Book international flights that land with time to rest before your first activity. Light-aircraft safari transfers carry strict baggage limits.

Entry Insurance

Some destinations ask visitors to hold a specific entry or medical insurance on arrival. Confirm whether this applies to each country you visit.

Comprehensive Travel Insurance

Mandatory for every Queen traveller and obtained by the traveller before travel. Choose cover for your safari activities, including emergency medical evacuation.

Yellow Fever Vaccination Card

Some African countries require an official Yellow Fever Vaccination Card, the International Certificate of Vaccination or Prophylaxis (ICVP). Requirements vary with your destination, the countries you visited beforehand and sometimes your connections. The certificate becomes valid ten days after vaccination and is generally valid for life.

> QUEEN'S TRAVEL TIP
>
> *Keep your original card with your passport in your carry-on, and check every country on your itinerary, including transit stops.*

Papers, protection *& the view.*

1 Travel Document Organiser

Keep your passport, visas, boarding passes, insurance details and important documents together. A secure neck wallet or organiser is useful on long flights and connections.

2 Insect Repellent

Pack an effective repellent containing DEET or picaridin and wear light long sleeves in the evenings. Repellent wristbands are an extra, never a replacement for proven protection.

3 Virtual Private Network (VPN)

Adds privacy on public Wi-Fi at airports, hotels and lodges. Avoid sensitive financial accounts on unsecured connections, and check local rules on VPN use.

4 Quick-Dry Travel Towel

A compact microfibre towel for treks, excursions and beach days. Takes almost no space and dries in minutes.

5 Binoculars

Watch distant elephants, lions, giraffes and birds without disturbing them. A compact pair of around 8x or 10x magnification is the practical choice.

6 Universal Power Adapter

South Africa, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda and Botswana use different plug types. Check your destinations and carry the right adapters.

7 Comprehensive Travel Insurance

Protects against medical emergencies, cancellations, lost luggage and disruption. Choose cover for your safari activities, including emergency medical evacuation.

8 Cooling Towel

Afternoon game drives can be hot on the open savannah. A cooling towel, activated with water, is a simple way to refresh yourself.

Comfort on the *long road.*

9 **Safe Drinking Water Bottle**
Refill a reusable bottle with water supplied by your lodge or safari team. Never assume tap water is safe; a purifier helps on remote adventures.

10 **Portable Power Bank**
Game drives can keep you from a plug for hours. A power bank keeps phone and camera accessories alive.

11 **International eSIM or Data Plan**
Consider an eSIM, local SIM or international package, and confirm coverage in each country, especially remote safari areas.

12 **Motion Sickness Relief**
Uneven roads, light aircraft and boats can unsettle anyone. Pack tablets or patches recommended by your pharmacist; some cause drowsiness.

13 **Lightweight Travel Umbrella**
For sudden rain and occasional shade. Pack a waterproof jacket too, especially in the wetter months.

14 **Refreshing Body Wipes**
A quick refresh after long flights, warm afternoons and extended game drives.

15 **Compact Emergency Accessories**
A whistle, compass or paracord bracelet for some outdoor adventures. Optional on lodge-based safaris: your guide carries safety equipment.

16 **Comfortable Day Backpack**
Keeps sunscreen, camera, water and medication within reach on drives and excursions.

17 **Luggage Locks**
Secure your bags through flights and transfers. Keep documents, medication and valuables in your hand luggage.



18 Jet Lag Relief Pills

Reaching Africa from North America, Australia or other distant places often means long flights, several connections and a significant change of time zone. Jet lag can leave you tired, disturb your sleep and dull the first days of your journey, precisely the mornings you do not want to miss.

IMPORTANT

Some travellers pack jet lag relief pills or melatonin to help reset their sleep. Properly timed melatonin can help some travellers adjust, but not every product marketed for jet lag has proven benefits.

Consult your pharmacist or healthcare professional before taking any medication.

To ease the transition, begin shifting your sleep before departure, drink water during the flight and get daylight soon after you arrive.

QUEEN'S TRAVEL TIP

Wherever possible, give yourself a restful first evening before the early-morning safari activities begin.

Health, order *& the shot.*

19 Packing Cubes

Keep clothing organised between lodges and separate clean clothes from laundry.

20 First-Aid Kit & Personal Medication

Plasters, antiseptic and the remedies you normally use. Bring enough prescription medication for the whole journey, in original packaging with a copy of your prescription, in your carry-on. Consult a travel-health professional about vaccinations and malaria prevention. Oral rehydration salts help with stomach illness; do not rely on activated charcoal for food poisoning.

21 Comfortable Safari Trousers

Light, breathable trousers for drives and walks; convertible styles suit warmer weather.

22 Hanging Toiletry Organiser

Keeps skincare and personal items in order between suites, tents and villas.

23 Digestive Health Essentials

Doctor-recommended medication, oral rehydration salts and personal remedies. Seek medical attention for severe symptoms, bloody diarrhoea, high fever or dehydration.

24 Camera With a Zoom Lens

Photograph wildlife from a respectful distance. Bring spare batteries, memory cards and a bag against dust and moisture.





A lantern-lit bush dinner, Maasai Mara

III · WHAT TO WEAR

Dressed for dawn, *and for dinner.*

Comfortable, practical clothing for changing temperatures. Early mornings can be surprisingly cold even when afternoons are hot, so dress in layers.

For women

Lightweight trousers, breathable blouses, long-sleeved shirts, walking shoes, a sun hat and a warm jacket, plus a few relaxed dresses or elegant pieces for lodge evenings.

For men

Safari trousers or chinos, breathable shirts, comfortable footwear, a fleece or light jacket and a sun hat, with smart-casual clothing for lodge dinners.

Choose neutral colours (khaki, beige, olive, brown). Avoid camouflage, which is restricted in some countries.

KHAKI BEIGE OLIVE BROWN

IV · BY EXPERIENCE

One continent, *five ways to pack.*

KENYA · TANZANIA · SOUTH AFRICA · BOTSWANA & BEYOND

Savannah Safaris

Breathable clothing, sun protection, binoculars, a warm layer for early drives and a dust cover for your camera.

UGANDA · RWANDA

Gorilla & Chimpanzee Trekking

Waterproof hiking boots, long trousers and sleeves, gardening gloves, a rain jacket and a small backpack. Forest trails can be steep and muddy.

NAMIBIA & ARID REGIONS

Desert Adventures

Strong sun, dry air and cold nights: sunscreen, sunglasses, a hat and warm layers.

BOTSWANA · ZAMBIA & BEYOND

Water-Based Safaris

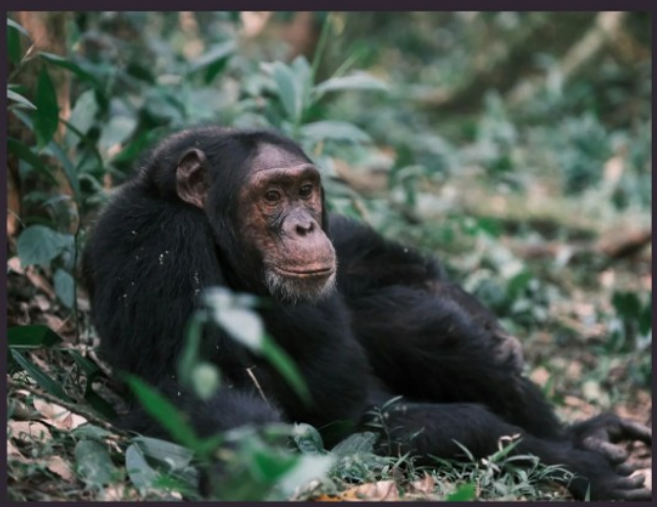
A waterproof pouch, quick-drying clothing, sun protection and suitable footwear.

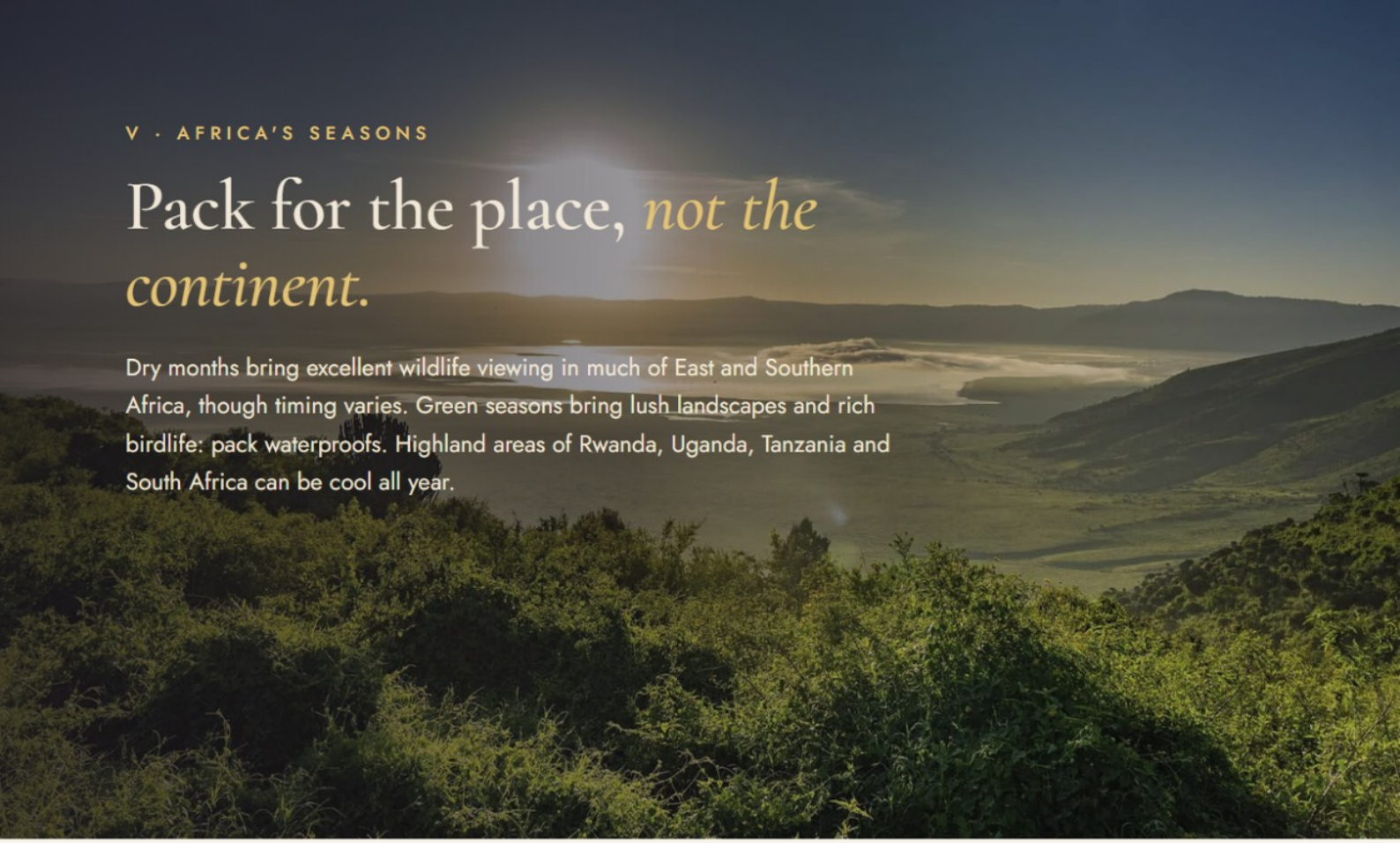
ZANZIBAR · SEYCHELLES · MAURITIUS · MOZAMBIQUE

Beach Escapes

Swimwear, sandals, linen, sunscreen and evening outfits. Dress respectfully in local communities.







V · AFRICA'S SEASONS

Pack for the place, *not the continent.*

Dry months bring excellent wildlife viewing in much of East and Southern Africa, though timing varies. Green seasons bring lush landscapes and rich birdlife: pack waterproofs. Highland areas of Rwanda, Uganda, Tanzania and South Africa can be cool all year.

VI · WHAT NOT TO BRING

Excessive luggage
Light aircraft have strict limits and may need soft bags.

Expensive jewellery
Leave unnecessary valuables at home.

Too many clothes
Many luxury lodges offer laundry.

Drones without permits
Rules differ by country and park.

Restricted plastic bags
Several destinations prohibit them.

Sleeping bags
Unnecessary on lodge-based safaris.

Heavy books
An e-reader is lighter.

Restricted equipment
Check rules on knives and specialist gear.

VII · QUESTIONS

Good to *know.*

Where should I go on my first African safari?

The Maasai Mara, the Serengeti and Ngorongoro, and Kruger are popular first choices; Botswana, Namibia, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Uganda and Rwanda are extraordinary too.

When is the best time for an African safari?

There is no single best time for all of Africa. Calving in the southern Serengeti is typically January to March; river crossings are seasonal and never guaranteed.

Are African safaris safe?

Professionally guided safaris are well managed. Follow your guide, respect wildlife and review official travel and health advice.

Are safaris suitable for children?

Yes, though some lodges and activities, particularly gorilla and chimpanzee trekking, have minimum ages.

Can I go on safari alone?

Absolutely, with private guides and carefully chosen lodges. Single supplements may apply.

How much does an African safari cost?

It varies with destination, season, accommodation, transport and activities.

What are Africa's Big Five?

Lion, leopard, elephant, rhinoceros and African buffalo.

Are African safaris ethical?

Responsible safaris support conservation and communities. Choose operators who respect wildlife and employ local professionals.

How should I pay while travelling?

Carry some local currency for tips and markets; cards are accepted at many established lodges.

Do I need vaccinations or malaria medication?

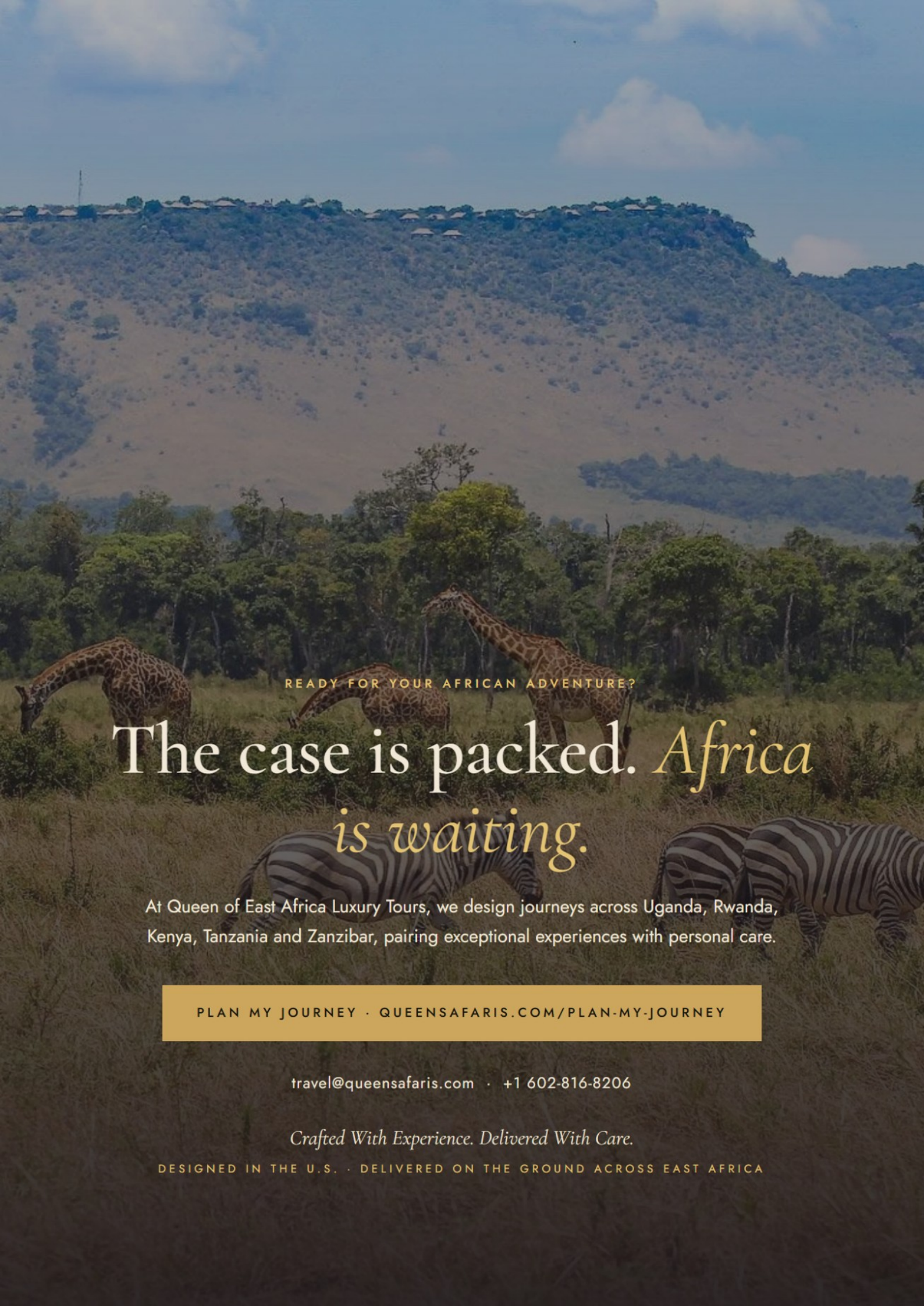
It depends on your itinerary and medical history. Consult a travel-health professional well before departure.

Before you *close the case.*

- [ ] Passport, visas and travel documents
- [ ] Travel insurance
- [ ] Prescription medication and first-aid essentials
- [ ] Jet lag and motion sickness remedies, if appropriate
- [ ] Insect repellent and sunscreen
- [ ] Lightweight safari clothing and warm layers
- [ ] Rain jacket and comfortable footwear
- [ ] Hat, sunglasses and swimwear
- [ ] Binoculars and camera
- [ ] Universal adapter and power bank
- [ ] eSIM or international phone plan
- [ ] Reusable water bottle
- [ ] Toiletries, wipes and packing organisers
- [ ] Day backpack
- [ ] Trekking or beach equipment for your itinerary
- [ ] Evening outfits for the lodge
- [ ] Confirmation of baggage allowances



Journey's end: Zanzibar's east coast



READY FOR YOUR AFRICAN ADVENTURE?

The case is packed. *Africa is waiting.*

At Queen of East Africa Luxury Tours, we design journeys across Uganda, Rwanda, Kenya, Tanzania and Zanzibar, pairing exceptional experiences with personal care.

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travel@queensafaris.com · +1 602-816-8206

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