

PLANNING YOUR AFRICAN TRIP

How to prepare for your trip to Africa
and travel on a budget.

THEAFRICANTRAVELLER.COM



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PACKING TIPS FOR YOUR AFRICAN TRAVELS

One of the major travelling headaches that most of us don't like to have is packing.

Sometimes I wish I could just travel without having to pack. Most of the time when I want to travel I spend time thinking about what I need to include in my travel bag so that I don't end up forgetting to take it along and then spending money to buy it when I get to my destination. The truth of the matter is if you must travel, you have to pack to travel.

If you are planning a family vacation, trying to coordinate everyone's luggage can be challenging, and it's often hard to find things you need once you get to your destination.

To help make packing a little easier, it will help to have a list of essentials items that you would need for your travel. Here are some tips that may help.



• Categorize Items

If you are travelling as a family. Some sources recommend divvying up everyone's luggage into categories.

Each person can have his or her category, and within those categories there can be sub-categories. Then there can be a category for shared items.

For example, your young children or teen's list might include toiletries, entertainment (such as an iPod), casual clothes, dress clothes, night clothes, shoes.

Dad's list might look a little different, and might include dress clothes, casual clothes, night clothes, maps and/or GPS, books, and toiletries. For combined items, choose one big duffle bag or suitcase in which you can put your common things.

For solo travellers you can have your own list of travel essentials like gadgets, clothing, shoes, toiletries, first aid, medications, and power banks.



- **Lists for Frequent Travelers**

If you travel often, having a stand-by list can make a big difference. Consider making a list of items you will always take with you, no matter what the nature of the vacation is.

Also, for frequent travelers it helps to have specific travel items set aside for travel only. Consider a toiletry case with travel-sized items that includes everything, so you can just grab that case and know you're covered. The same would go for first aid and other medical supplies.

- **When packing your clothes, Roll, Don't Fold**

A very effective trick I often use when packing for travel is to roll my clothes as I carefully arrange them in my box.

An interesting thing happens when you tightly roll clothes instead of folding them. If you smooth the garments while you roll them tightly, they are not nearly as prone to wrinkling.

You may also find that you can fit a lot more clothing into your luggage this way. It is just a smart way of packing for travel.



• Little Things but very Essential

It's so easy to forget the little things. Here are some suggestions for little items that are easily forgotten, but which can make or break your African Trip.

Include items to this list that are essential to you and will be difficult to find at your travel destination.

- Camera
- Antibiotic ointment
- Band-Aids
- All prescription medications (also, make sure you have enough to carry you throughout your visit, and find out if/where you can refill at your destination)
- Sunglasses
- Insect repellent
- After-bite treatment (such as Cortisone ointment)
- Feminine products



- **Avoid packing unnecessary Items**

Before you start packing, find out and consider what will be provided at your destination.

There may be soap, toothpaste, and towels, for instance. There may also be shampoo and conditioner. It can save a lot of space if you don't pack what you don't need! Also, it's less stressful and wise financially to travel light. Just pack the essentials

- **Prepare your Travel Documents**

If you have never travelled to Africa before, then there are certain things you need to sort out before booking your flight.

Besides your passport you would need to have your Visa. Some countries give Visa on arrival but to be safe you can get the E-Visa online by checking the country's Immigration website. Also, some countries require that you take the yellow fever vaccine and might require that you show proof of having taken the vaccine before you enter the country. Do your research about this.

Get all your necessary documents including your Covid test report as well as your covid test payment receipt. Keeping your receipt is especially important now because it has been observed that covid test reports are being doctored. So, your receipt will prove that indeed you paid for and took the test.



- **Find out the Travel requirement for each Country**

Typically, each country have their own travel requirements for visiting their country. However, the recent pandemic in the world has made travelling even more strict.

You need to know what requirements a country has for people who want to visit. The best way to get information about this is to visit the country's website for travel and double check the information and requirement provided for intending travellers into the country.

For Visa, you need to find out if your country of destination gives visa on arrival or you have to get your visa online (E-VISA) before you travel. Note that you need to visit these websites regularly as the information changes a lot.

MONEY SAVING TIPS FOR YOUR AFRICAN TRAVEL

Looking for ways to save money during your travel? In today's economy, many people are looking to save wherever they can. The vacation budget might need to be tightened this year. If you are looking to save money on your African travel, read on for some tips.

- **Travel during Off-times**

Of course, traveling to destinations during the "off" season such as going to the beach in September can save a bundle. But there is other "off" times that you may not have thought of.

For instance, avoiding travel during holiday periods or tourist seasons and planning your trip during a less popular time may save you quite a bit of money. Airfare and hotel costs tend to rise notably during these periods.

Consider ditching the summer vacation altogether and plan a spring time or middle of the year trip instead. You are likely to find much cheaper Airbnb or hotel rates and airfare during off seasons.



- **Out-of-the-Way Places**

Avoiding tourist traps can help you save money on vacation. At tourist-intensive destinations, costs may be far higher as merchants raise prices on goods and services. You might be surprised to find how inexpensive a bed and breakfast is, for example, or a coastal cottage at a lesser-known beach.

- **Don't Procrastinate**

Planning ahead can make the difference between a very expensive venture and a much cheaper one.

While it's true that you can sometimes find great last-minute deals on airfare and such, chances are you'll pay a lot more if you have to buy a ticket or book a room right away.

If you plan ahead, you can refuse a deal that is too expensive.



• **Make and Bring Your Own Food**

It's understandable that one of the fun parts about a vacation is not having to cook. However, eating out costs a lot of money. A good, money-saving compromise is to bring your own food for the car trip, and make some of your own meals on site and go out for others.

Making up a grocery list ahead is helpful; that way you're not going to the store and buying on impulse. If you make a grocery list according to the meals you'll be cooking, that will help save money and allow you to plan how much you'll be spending on eating out. On a one month trip, for instance, you might go out for dinner 3 nights a week, out for lunch 3 times a week, and out for breakfast on the day you depart.

• **Package Deals**

Looking for a deal where you can have everything paid for in one price bundle may save you a bundle! Some of these packages even include shuttle service from the airport to the place where you're staying.

An all-inclusive vacation may include meals, drinks, and even some activities. Do a little research and see if a package deal with a travel and tour company might work best for you.



• Accommodation

Accommodation is a very important aspect of travel. You must have a place to rest your head at night. It is also a huge part of our travel budget. Finding great yet affordable hotel or Airbnb to stay during your visit will save us a lot of money. You should look for great deals online for hotels or Airbnb sometimes you can find promos or discount sales.

Another option to save cost of staying in an hotel or Airbnb is stay with a friend or family who lives in the country you are visiting. this way you save both cost of housing and also feeding cost

• Cheap Flights

There are several online platforms where you can look for affordable flights. you need to constantly check for fair prices on these site and be quick to book when you find a fair price because the flight ticket prices fluctuates.

Some sites you can check for cheap flights are: Google Flight, Kaya, TripAdvisor flights, Travel Zoo, Sky scanner among others.

Travelling brings amazing experiences. It is something so many of us want to do in our life time. Every one should travel and enjoy the discoveries and beauty of earth. Have a splendid African Travel experience.