



Recommended Packing List

AIRLINE RESTRICTIONS DICTATE THE LUGGAGE/GEAR YOU WILL BE TRAVELING WITH.
THIS SUGGESTED LIST CAN CERTAINLY BE MODIFIED FOR PERSONAL NEEDS.

THE TYPICAL HUNTER WILL TRAVEL WITH 4 PIECES OF LUGGAGE:

1. One checked suitcase / bag (with clothing, ammunition and toiletries) (50lb limit)

Ammo Can(s): Your ammunition must be stored within a metal or plastic ammunition can that is locked with a TSA lock. Airlines restrict you to eleven pounds of ammunition which includes the weight of the ammunition can(s). Forty rounds per rifle is more than ample for a trip and allows enough rounds to re-sight a scope should problems occur. Shotgun rounds accumulate weight quickly and you should coordinate with Roland to acquire shotgun shells in South Africa. While hand loads are acceptable it is recommended that they be placed within a factory box to keep from confusing the inspection officials. TSA officials will likely open your bag without your presence after it is checked in. They will cut and break locks if a TSA key cannot open them.

Place tags on your ammo can(s) boldly stating SPORTING AMMUNITION with your name, cell phone number, flight number, number of rounds, and calibre also written on the tag. It is unlikely that they will contact you and you likely just find a card in your bag from them stating that they inspected contents. South African Police will record how many rounds you are traveling with but they almost never examine the ammunition.

2. One checked, hard-sided firearm case that is locked with non-TSA locks (with up to 3 firearms) (50lb limit) (DO NOT place ammunition within the firearm case)

Pelican Vault series and Tuffbox work well for firearms transport. Be careful about picking a heavy-duty case because you will lose a great portion of the 50 pound limit just to the weight of the case alone. The case needs to have wheels for long airport walks. The ultimate firearms list would consist of a large calibre rifle, a medium calibre rifle, and an over/under or side-by-side shotgun. With careful selection of case and firearms you can get under 50 pounds with this combination. Store your firearms within individual cheap soft sided gun cases in the hard case. Safari hunting can be extremely rough on a firearm and it is important to safely protect the firearm during field transport. Do not bring a fancy soft gun case as you do not wish to see it scarred from rough field conditions.

3. One carry on backpack (with binoculars, camera, personal medication etc.)

4. One personal carry on bag / "Jackpack" (with travel documentation, laptop/iPad, books, immediate use medication etc.)





The Basic Checklist

- Battery pack
- Cellphone charger
- Outlet adapter (if you are doing a hunt where you are travelling to different camps – our main camp has adapters)
- Voltage power converter (from 220 volt to 110 volt) (for electric shavers)
- Binoculars
- Rangefinder
- Preferred sunscreen (although we supply)
- Preferred chapstick (although we supply)
- Sunhat / cap
- Sunglasses
- Leg gaiters (especially if you are planning on hunting with shorts)
- Camouflage hunting clothing
- Swimwear if your safari is during the summer months (September - April)
- Hunting boots
- Light footwear for camp (sandals / flip flops / cros)
- Gloves
- Ear Protection (if you usually use them)
- Camera / GoPro / iPad + Chargers
- Personal toiletries
- Personal medication
- Malaria tablets if applicable
- Passport and/or visa, flight tickets, cash, credit card, letter of invitation from Stirling Safaris, rifle permit documentation
- Ammunition
- Rifle(s) / Bow

Clothing

Keep it simple and travel light.

- Camouflage clothing is acceptable but is not required. Solid brown and solid green clothing works just as well. Anything bright or white is not advised.
- Odor control clothing is unnecessary. If the wind works against you are done no matter what you smell like or how much you attempted to suppress odor.
- Temperature fluctuations happen quickly with the sun's rising and setting. Dressing in multiple light layers will allow you to adapt to changes.
- When in the main camp the Stirling staff washes clothes daily so the hunter does not have to pack great quantities of clothing. Multiple changes are needed for the travel days and some of the overnight stays when the pursuit of specialized game takes the hunter away from the main camp.
- Clothing needs to have a quiet fabric characteristic due to the frequency of contact with brushy limbs when stalking.
- Footwear needs to be comfortable and well broken in. The avoidance of foot blisters will be absolutely necessary.
- Temperatures will range from the high 30°F to the mid 80°F.
- Cotton clothing works well.
- Multiple pockets are helpful.
- You might prefer a set of casual clothes for airport and traveling that is not camouflaged

Shirts

- A combination of short sleeve, long sleeve, tee shirts, and thermal shirts are needed for a comfortable safari.
- Button up cotton short and long sleeve shirts with two flapped breast pockets are ideal. Redhead, Cabela's, Tag, Beretta, and others make suitable shirts of this type.
- Shirts should be colored camouflage (any pattern is acceptable), solid brown, or solid green.
- Tee shirts, both long and short sleeved, will often be part of your layered approach to dressing.
- A single hunting colored thermal shirt to go over your hunting shirt will be appropriate on some cold mornings.
- Shirt fabric material should be quiet when brushed by a limb.
- Collared shirts provide a much higher level of sun protection than un-collared shirts.
- Tee shirts should be earth tone colored with no visible white showing.

Pants

- Hunting can be conducted in long pants or shorts.
- Advantages of long pants are: warmth during cool temperatures, leg protection from thorns, some protection from things that bite/sting, padding for knees when kneeling/crawling is required, sun protection, and good anchor point for the gaiters. Most hunters do not find long pants to be too hot when temperatures rise.
- Advantage of shorts is that they are slightly cooler to wear.
- Both styles of pants need multiple pockets with bellow cargo thigh pockets.
- Pants should be camouflage, solid brown, or solid green in colour.
- Fabric for the pants should be quiet when contacting thorny limbs while stalking.
- Duluth Trading Company offers work pants that are excellent for safari hunting. The Duluthflex Firehose pants in brown colour will serve the hunter well. Wash the pants 5 to 6 times to soften the fabric before coming on safari.
- Upland game brush buster hunting pants are too noisy when contacting thorn bushes and should not be brought on safari.

Jackets

- Three jackets are recommended for a safari: lightweight zippered fleece jacket, medium weight jacket that can be worn over the fleece jacket for layering effect, and a lightweight rain jacket.
- Jackets need to be camouflage, solid brown, or solid green in colour.
- Choose jackets that do not make much noise when walking.
- The fleece jacket needs to be zippered so that body heat can be released if a stalk becomes long. A hooded fleece jacket may cause hang up problems when dipping under over hanging thorny branches during a stalk.
- The medium weight jacket should not be bulky and cause hang up problems when stalking.
- Jackets should be constructed in a manner that will not interfere with rapid mounting of a firearm.
- Lightweight Frog Toggs work well for a rain jacket.

Headwear

- A billed hunting coloured baseball cap is a must for stalking. The sun visor is absolutely necessary to keep from being blinded by the sun's rays. There is almost no shade at Stirling and the hunter will be in the sun all day.
- A wide brimmed hat (Stetson or Boonie style) is very helpful for sun protection while riding in the elevated seats of the hunting truck. This style of hat is not recommended for stalking due to frequent contact with brushy limbs and that this hat also greatly increases the hunter's profile when the animal looks your way.
- A beanie / knit cap with a sun visor will be very appreciated on cold mornings and cool evenings.
- Carrying a camouflaged buff / neckerchief in the field may be useful.

Footwear

- Hunting boots - American hunting boots are not particularly well suited for the safari. The aggressive tread pattern of American hunting boots causes them to be extremely noisy during stalks. The aggressive tread causes small stones or dry grass to grate against each other resulting in an undue level of noise when quietness is needed. Tread patterns need to be near flat or similar to a boat shoe. Smooth bottomed styles of Russell Moccasins, Courtney's, or Redwing Chuka boots allow for much quieter stalking. The hunting boots chosen need to be well broken in and not prone to causing feet blisters. The hunting boots do not need to have waterproof characteristics. Carry extra boot laces.
- Camp/Travel Shoes - These will be your primary footwear when traveling and spending time in camp. These shoes need to have the ability to be used as the hunting footwear should a problem arise with your hunting boots. Tread pattern should be near flat for quietness.
- Crock Slippers - Crock slippers or flip flops will help you negotiate your room, shower, and immediate room surroundings. Thorns are everywhere and barefoot travel is not recommended.

Socks

- Socks for your hunting boots need to have the ability to wick away moisture so that foot blisters can be avoided.
- The old hikers' trick of a thin inner sock covered by a thicker outer sock may also be an option for you to avoid blisters.
- Over-the-calf socks provide an additional layer of skin protection from thorny brush.
- Thick cold weather socks are unnecessary.
- Consider the use of foot powder to assist in keeping feet dry.

Leg Gaiters

- Leg gaiters are necessary to keep thorns and sharp pointed grass seeds from entering the tops of your boots and then causing discomfort as the points of the seeds penetrate the sock.
- Leg gaiters also prevent vegetation from untying your boot laces.
- Leg gaiters can be bought through Tag Safaris clothing company.
- You may also coordinate with Roland to buy some gaiters on your behalf from his local farmers' co-op store. The Stirling Safaris Curio shop usually stock gaiters too.
- If you have apprehension about snake encounters while on safari you may choose to wear snake protection gaiters such as Snake Guardz by Crackshot at 1-800-667-1753. Careful foot placement when stalking will always alleviate the possibility of a negative outcome snake encounter but these gaiters can certainly give you a higher level of peace-of-mind.

Gloves

- Three types of gloves are recommended: lightweight shooting gloves, lightweight gloves for warmth and medium weight gloves for warmth.
- Some cooler weather may be encountered during your safari. Your hands are subject to getting cold while on morning stalks and when riding in the elevated seats of the hunting truck.
- Fingerless shooting gloves or unlined brown jersey gloves with fingertips scissored off should be available to retain finger dexterity for shooting situations while stalking.
- Unlined brown jersey gloves work well for the lightweight gloves.
- Lined brown jersey gloves work well for the medium weight gloves.

Clothing Accessories

- A belt that can accommodate your sheath knife, ammunition pouch, Leatherman pouch and water bottle carrier is ideal.
- Avoid wearing shiny watches and jewellery.
- Fishing style eyeglass straps may help you manage your eyewear in the field.
- If you require ear plugs before making a shot at game make sure that you carry the ear plugs in a manner that allows rapid insertion and does not cause undue delay in taking the shot. Many times game will not tolerate much fiddling around before they bolt.