



TRIPMEMO RESOURCE | MAASAI MARA, KENYA

What to pack for the Mara

The kit list from a safari that started as a thirty-minute packing job and became a small-scale military operation.

Camera and optics

+ A long zoom lens

A 70–300mm, so no lion ends up as a distant dot. (In Naboisho the lions came so close that it almost felt too long.)

+ Spare power

A battery grip or extra batteries. Battery anxiety is best dealt with at home.

+ Two fast memory cards

For limited storage and generous continuous shooting.

+ A lens-cleaning kit

The Mara is dusty, even at the airstrip.

+ An organised camera bag

So everything has a place in a moving Land Cruiser.

+ Binoculars (8x42)

For the times you want to look at an animal without photographing it.

Clothes

- + **Ranger-style clothes in beige and green**
Shirts, trousers and a jacket in safari colours.
- + **A jacket with plenty of pockets**
A fishing jacket works well.
- + **A ranger hat and UV-protection sunglasses**
For the harsh equatorial sun.
- + **All-weather shoes**
Camps, mud and rough tracks.
- + **A warm layer for the evenings**
Nights around the bonfire turn cold.

Health and sun

- + **Strong insect repellent**
High-DEET repellent against mosquitoes.
- + **High-SPF sunscreen**
SPF 70 for long days under an open sky.

And one thing to pack lightly

- **Your expectations**
“I had my bags packed with everything essential for the travel. But I also carried an expectation. Perhaps that was the heaviest thing in my luggage.”

“Every journey begins twice. Once, when you start planning and preparing for the trip. And once when your bags are packed.”

Drawn from *The Mara*, a Kenya journal by Bhuwan Purohit. Health, visa and park rules change, so always check the latest official guidance before you travel.