



KENYA TRAVEL GUIDE

This Kenya Travel Guide will make your travel to Kenya easier, a success and more informative. Below are some travel tips that will come in handy whilst preparing your holiday. While we endeavor to update this information as soon as possible, we advise you to consult the nearest embassy or consular office for up to date information as some of this information may change with time. This information helps you prepare for your holiday and be aware of what to expect in landing in Kenya.

BAGGAGE:

Baggage space on safari is limited to one medium suitcase/duffle bag (preferably a duffle bag) per person, plus hand baggage (private safaris where there are less than 5 people in the vehicle are not subjected to this restriction).

Visitors to Treetops and the Ark are asked to take overnight bags only. Suitcases are left at the base hotels. Hotels will generally store baggage at no extra cost, and baggage may also be stored at our offices. A baggage weight restriction of 15kgs per person applies on air safaris, and where very small aircraft are used, this restriction may be reduced to 10kgs.

LANGUAGE:

Kiswahili is the lingua franca while English is the official language. All the people you will interact with in hotels, lodges, airport and your driver guides are fluent in English while some are multi-lingua; speaking fluent Spanish, French, German, Italian and Mandarin among other languages.

HEALTH AND IMMUNISATION:

Since rules concerning disease prevention vary from time to time, most current information should be sought from our office via email and we shall reply immediately, or in the following authorities; the Kenyan Embassy/High Commission, Tourist Office or from any airline flying scheduled services into Kenya from your country of residence prior to traveling.

Malaria is endemic to most parts of Kenya and intending visitors should start taking anti-malarial tablets before departure and should continue taking them for the prescribed period of time after their return home. A mosquito repellent is also advisable. If on medication, it is best to take a supply of medicines to last the entire trip.

Yellow-Fever vaccination is not mandatory; however we would recommend that you check with your local authorities as some countries require their nationals to immunize against yellow-fever.

DRINKING WATER:

Bottled mineral water for drinking is available widely everywhere in the country at all supermarkets, lodges and hotels and we highly recommend the use of mineral water for drinking. Please do not consume any tap water during your trip.

FLYING DOCTORS SOCIETY:

Membership of the Flying Doctors Society is strongly recommended. In the event of accident or sickness while on safari, the society will fly/evacuate patients by air ambulance to Nairobi for admittance into

hospital. The cost for membership varies and it is advisable that you contact us for the most current fee. Payment of this fee can be organized on your behalf by Trails of Africa Safaris, prior to your arrival in Kenya.

CUSTOMS:

Visitors may import, duty-free, 200 cigarettes or 50 cigars, and one litre of spirit.

CURRENCY:

Hard currencies can be exchanged in cash at banks all over the country, at forex bureaus in Nairobi and other major towns, and in most large hotels and lodges. US Dollars, Euros and Sterling Pounds are most acceptable. As a norm, always inquire as to what commission and charges will be deducted first and prior to transaction. Most major credit cards such as VISA, MASTERCARD & AMERICAN EXPRESS are widely accepted for tourist services throughout the country.

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

January 1, Good Friday, Easter Monday, May 1, June 1, October 20, December 12, and December 25-26. Eid-UI-Fitr, Eid-UI-Haj (Religious Holidays).

SHOPPING/ SOUVENIRS

There is a big variety of souvenirs to take home. Most hotels have licensed souvenir shops and there are a large number of such outlets in main towns. We also have tourist markets on Tuesdays and Saturdays in Nairobi. City market is also open daily where one can purchase souvenirs. In Mombasa the ideal place is at Bombolulu Crafts Centre besides also in major tourist hotels and airport.

CLIMATE

Kenya lies on the equator, and as a result, almost a uniform tropical climatic condition with very little variations. Coastal areas are hot and humid, the North Eastern Province is semi-desertic with hot days and cold nights, the Mount Kenya and Aberdares region of Kenya is much cooler and warm clothing will be required especially in the mornings and at night.

WHAT TO WEAR

- Summer clothing is worn throughout the year, although at times a jacket and light raincoat may be necessary.
- July through to September are our 'winter months' where temperatures at altitude level can drop to 10 C. So carry a pullover/sweater to stay warm. This is especially so in Nairobi and Central Highland areas.
- In dawn and dusk safaris, a sweater is needed. In fact most national parks are at an altitude of over 1500m above sea level, so early mornings and evenings are quite cool.
- On safari, wear neutral colours, such as brown, beige and khaki - bright colours may alarm the animals.
- Sunglasses and a hat for protection against the sun are recommended and swimsuits should be packed for the swimming pool or beach. Topless sunbathing is not permitted

WHAT TO BRING

A pair of binoculars will greatly enhance game viewing while a torch to find your way around camp after dark is a good idea. Don't forget the camera, camcorder and a plentiful supply of film or memory cards and spare batteries. Books, pencils, crayons and candy are very welcome as gifts to the children of local villages that you would pass (or visit) whilst on safari.

TIPPING & GRATUITIES

Tipping is customary in Kenya but not mandatory. Whilst the actual amount of money to tip is left at your discretion, we would like to recommend (US \$5-10 per service rendered is acceptable) for porters and waiters and safari drivers/guides (US \$15-30 per person per day is acceptable).

SECURITY:

Normal precautions as in any other destination should be taken. Visitors should never carry large sums in cash and women should be careful with their handbags in crowded or busy streets. You are advised to use safe deposit boxes in your hotel rooms to store cash and any other valuables.

INTERNATIONAL AIR SERVICES

Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA) serves as a hub for East and Central Africa and most major international and regional airlines fly into Kenya through JKIA. A number of International Airlines fly into Kenya daily from Amsterdam, London-Heathrow, Istanbul, South Africa, Dubai, Qatar, South Korea etc. Kenya Airways partners with KLM Royal Dutch have connections to/from all over the world. We also have British Airways, Emirates, Qatar Air, Turkish, SAA, Egypt Air etc flying into JKIA daily.

In Mombasa we have also Moi International Airport which serves both regular and charter flights arriving from most European capitals. This airport also supports major local and regional airlines servicing our beach resorts.

PASSPORT AND VISAS:

Your passport must be valid six months after date of arrival in Kenya. Visas can either be obtained from the Kenyan High Commissions in your country of residence, or at customs office upon arrival at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport, Nairobi or Moi International Airport, Mombasa. The fee remains US \$50 per passport. This figures changes from time to time and it is vital to check with us at your time of travel.

TIME ZONE

Kenya is +3 hours GMT and +2 hours Central Europe in Winter time and +1 hour in summer time.

PHOTOGRAPHY:

While we encourage you to carry your camera and camcorder, taking photographs at airports, parliament, Army barracks, near military installations, some government offices, of policemen, the president, the State House and prisoners etc is prohibited. Prior to taking photographs of local people, permission should be obtained. Please seek the assistance of your driver/guide regarding this matter.

BEHAVIOUR IN TOWN

Kenya has several religions, but the Coast is predominantly Muslim, therefore you are requested to observe certain modesty in your dress.

BEHAVIOUR IN PARKS

The animals are at home, do not disturb their daily life, do not throw litter and do not encourage your driver to drive off the track. Don't be disappointed if you have not seen all the species on your list, consider on the contrary that you have been lucky to see what you have seen and enjoy the landscape and the immensity.

[Contact us](#) for Eastern and Southern Africa safaris, price inquiries and booking availability

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